



Town most expensive for burial and cremations

# FAMILIES FACING FUNERAL DEBTS

Report by John Corser

**DUDLEY and Stourbridge are the most expensive places in the UK for a funeral, after London.**

The West Midlands is the second highest priced region of the UK for funeral costs, with Dudley and Stourbridge topping the table within the region with the average costs of a funeral at £4,439.

Meanwhile, the average cost across the West Midlands is now £3,977, according to research from insurance group Royal London for its national funeral cost index.

London's average funeral is estimated at £4,838 – that's £6,479 for burials and £3,198 for cremations. In the West Midlands burials average at £4,699 and cremations at £3,255. Nationally the average stands at £3,757.

In the fifth year of Royal London's research into funeral costs, the average cost of a UK funeral has risen by six per cent from £3,551 in 2014.

## Debt

Now there are fears that funeral costs are forcing families into debt.

Individual funeral debt has increased at a much higher rate – 34 per cent – in the last five years with people now taking on an average debt of £1,744, compared to £1,305 in 2014.

Royal London's funeral cost expert Louise Eaton-Terry said: "High funeral costs in the West Midlands have left many families taking on a mountain of debt, with our research showing a huge increase in the amount being borrowed by the bereaved over the last five years."

"More support needs to be offered to families struggling to pay for funeral costs. It's shocking that the Government do not consider funeral director's fees and a coffin to be a 'necessary' cost. We want the Social Fund to cover the cost of a basic funeral, as no-one should have to struggle to give their loved ones a decent send-off."

Royal London found that nationally 12 per cent took on debt to pay for a funeral. Of those who struggled with funeral costs, 28 per cent borrowed money from friends and family and 21 per cent took on debt. One in 10 sold possessions to give their loved ones a decent send-off.

## HISTORIC SETTING FOR MAGNIFICENT MOTORS



**Classic – Trevor Stubbs with his 1963 Ford Consul Capri on display at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley last weekend**

MORE than 20 gleaming classic cars went on show at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley as proud owners displayed their magnificent motors.

Ranging from a 1963 Consul Capri to a 1986 Lotus Esprit, the classy classics were displayed by members of the Black Country Car Club, who were on hand to talk about their cars and answer any questions from those admiring the awesome autos.

Nigel Evans, events organiser for the car club, said: "The people at the Cone organised the event and we turn up and park our cars."

## Weather

"If the weather is glorious, it's a really great day but, if it isn't, half of our members don't turn up because they don't want to get their cars wet."

"We really enjoy doing this and it's a really

good event. It's been good for us to raise the profile of our club."

Mr Evans, 51, added: "We do a lot of events and this one is one of the good ones."

"A lot of the general public turn up and a lot of people are not car buffs, so they ask a lot of questions and see cars their grandparents and parents used to drive."

"It's nice to have it in the setting beside the glass cone as well."

## POLICE

### Man facing kidnap and rape charges

A BRIERLEY Hill man has been charged with 13 offences including kidnap and rape. Simon Wiggins, 46, is accused of rape, sexual assault, kidnap and assault. He is due to appear at Northampton Crown Court on October 12.

The alleged offences, against three victims, were said to have happened in Dudley, Stourbridge and Northamptonshire between 1997 and 2018. Northamptonshire Police are investigating. Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101, quoting Operation Pelican, or Crime-stoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## SEARCH

### Missing student – suspects released

TWO men arrested on suspicion of murder by police searching for missing student Thomas Jones in Worcester have been released without charge.

Albion fan Thomas, aged 18, from Bromsgrove, was last seen in the early hours of September 19 close to the River Severn. He recently started a teaching course at the city's university. West Mercia Police said it remains a missing person enquiry.

## PLANNING

### Supermarket and flats get green light

PLANS to build a supermarket and eight flats in Brierley Hill have been given the green light by planning bosses.

Dudley Council approved the application to build the three-storey building on currently vacant land in Moor Street.

It plan includes a supermarket on the ground floor, with eight flats above, plus car parking facilities.

## INSIDE

### FESTIVE FAIR COMPETITION



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# I will turn hospital around, says chief



Chief executive Diane Wake

THE boss of troubled Russells Hall Hospital has suggested she is the best person to turn it around, as she laid out her plans to improve services to concerned council chiefs.

Under-fire chief executive Diane Wake presented an improvement plan to Dudley Council following a damning inspection by health watchdog the Care Quality Commission, which again found the emergency department 'inadequate'.

She is expected to be grilled by council scrutiny bosses this week over failings at the hospital, which is facing a probe into the deaths of up to 54 patients.

Ms Wake has laid out her plans for delivering the required improvements, including action over sepsis, which the watchdog said doctors were struggling to identify, and increased staffing.

She said there had been a 'comprehensive staffing review' and an extra five A&E consultants had been brought in.

The hospital boss said staff in A&E had been re-trained in how to spot the signs of sepsis and manage patients who have the condition. A 'dedicated sepsis trolley' has also been introduced.

A report from Ms Wake to the coun-

cil's health scrutiny committee said: "We are absolutely committed to delivering the actions needed to ensure our patients are safe."

"A new cohort of qualified nurses commence in September 2018. A neighbouring trust is supporting us with an induction programme for new nursing starters and a training programme for all staff in the emergency department."

The borough's four MPs – Ian Austin, Mike Wood, Margot James and James Morris – have insisted change is needed at the top and called for the chair of governors, Jenni Ord, to resign.

# Cushty! Fan buys Del Boy's watch for £28k



Only Fools And Horses super-fan Michael Enright, left, with the £28k pocket watch, alongside friend Jason Baddams

HE who dares Rodney, he who dares... the Black Country biggest Only Fools And Horses fan has splashed out £28,000 for an iconic prop from Britain's best loved sitcom.

Michael Enright, 47, from Gornal, has bought the pocket watch that made his hero Del Boy a millionaire in a classic episode of the hit TV show... and he even attended the auction in Dudley dressed up with his pal as Batman and Robin in tribute to a classic scene from the TV show.

The novelty prop went on sale at Aston's Auctioneers in Tower Street on Thursday, selling for almost double its anticipated price of £15,000.

Super-fan Michael could not resist the item after he read in the Express & Star that it was up for sale.

## Trotter

Michael, 47, said: "Hands down my favourite thing about Only Fools and Horses is Del Boy, I live my life like him. I'm a Trotter at heart and everything I do is to be similar to him, he's brilliant."

Michael and his friend Jason Baddams came through the doors of the auction house dressed as Batman and Robin. Michael, owner of MT Skips in Dudley, said: "Jason loves the show too but the whole fancy dress thing was a last minute idea."

"Everyone at the auction house loved it when we came in all dressed up, they all had a good laugh and it was brilliant."

"My family think I'm mad, completely bonkers, but you'll never see this item again, I had one chance to get it and I knew if I'd have lost out

on it I'd have been gutted. It's a lot of money but it's worth it."

"At the end when I'd won the auction, a man from London who was bidding against me, came and shook my hand."

"He asked me how much I was prepared to pay for it and I said I came here to buy it, whatever the cost."

The timepiece was made by the BBC props department for the 1996 episode 'Time On Our Hands', which finally saw the Trotter brothers real-

ise their dream of becoming millionaires.

Michael, described himself as a 'huge fan' of Only Fools and Horses. "All four of my kids watch it and every single night I sit down and enjoy an episode. I'm addicted to it," he said. "You'll be hard pressed to find anyone who doesn't love the show"

"There are only two of these watches in existence so I'm definitely keeping this one safe. In 10 years I might look at selling it on and seeing

what I can get, I think I could take it back to auction now and make my money back. If I do sell it on I want to take it to Sotheby's, the auction house they used in the show."

Also at Aston's, a huge collection of Star Wars memorabilia including more than 600 different lots sold for just shy of £100,000 but the Boba Fett figure that was expected to fetch £2,000 went unsold. Star lot was a Princess Leia figure, made by toy company Palitoy, that sold for £1,200.

# New base for group helping youngsters

A popular counselling charity has opened its doors in Dudley town centre.

The What? Centre, which provides one-to-one therapeutic counselling and advice services for young people across the borough, has opened in Priory Street, Dudley.

The centre, which already has a base in Stourbridge, was officially opened by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Taylor. It is set to provide free advice, creative groups and therapeutic workshops for young people aged between 13 and 25.

The centre is also running What's Up? – a Friday youth group where young people can play sport, video games, watch films, take part in creative activities or just enjoy a chat with friends.

Judy Duffy, chief officer of the centre, said: "The Stourbridge centre has already supported many thousands of young people with their mental health and social welfare over the last 30 years."

"We can now look forward to helping many more young people across the Dudley area in a fun and creative way."

For further information about The What? Centre call (01384) 885488, email [whatdudley\\_yif@outlook.com](mailto:whatdudley_yif@outlook.com) or go to the centre's website, [thewhatcentre.com](http://thewhatcentre.com)

# Eerie go for a spooky night

SPOOKY fun and creepy crafts will be on offer at Dudley Zoo and Castle next month, although Halloween night itself has already sold out.

The team are preparing for ghoulish goings-on at their Halloween Hocus Pocus events when daring youngsters will be encouraged to brave after-hours events at the Castle Hill attraction.

Dudley Zoo's marketing manager Andrea Hales said: "Our Halloween events always go down a treat as the zoo and castle after dark is an eerily exciting place to be. Tickets are selling fast."

Hocus Pocus tickets, which must be booked in advance, are £10 for children aged three to 15 with under 3s free. Adults are £8.50 and a family ticket – two adults and two children – is £32. Events take place on October 29 and 30.

# South to perform some Beautiful hits

EX-MEMBERS of The Beautiful South, including Birmingham singer Alison Wheeler, perform such hits as Perfect 10, Rotterdam and Don't Marry Her at Kings Heath venue the Hare & Hounds on Friday, October 5, as The South. See [hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk](http://hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk)

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## Wolves stars wished fan happy 92nd birthday

LIFELONG Wolves fan Jim Payne received quite a shock on his 92nd birthday. The supporter from Brierley Hill was surprised with a minute-long video of players wishing him many happy returns.

And the kind-hearted man who organised it all was someone he had never even met. Manny Singh Kang, 46, waited outside Molineux with his two sons for nearly three hours to capture the footballers on camera.

A friend of Jim's grand-daughter, Gemma, he had been asked if he could pick up a new Wolves shirt as a birthday gift for her grandfather but he decided to go that extra mile.

Manny, who lives in Wolverhampton and works as a signaller for Network Rail, said: "I'm a massive Wolves fan myself and I just had the idea while at the game. Now Jim has a huge smile on his face and something he'll treasure forever."

Gemma, who has only known Manny since meeting him at Pure Gym Dudley in Tipton, said: "I knew I wanted to get grandad a Wolves shirt for his birthday, so Manny said he'd get one for me as he was already going to get one for himself. But bless him, he waited for about two or three hours after the Burnley game and got the players as they were leaving to wish grandad a happy birthday on film."

● See the video at [expressandstar.com](http://expressandstar.com)

## Gym star joins city Hall of Fame

GYMNASTICS star Kristian Thomas, who trained in Halesowen, has been inducted into Wolverhampton's Sporting Hall of Fame.

The Olympic medalist said it was a proud moment as he joined stellar names such as Billy Wright and Denise Lewis on the list.

Kristian, who has now retired, was part of one of the most successful men's gymnastics teams and went on to become household names in the sporting world. He was recognised by the city along with former cyclist Stuart Dangerfield, winter Olympian Michael Borton and Mark Farnell, the first Paralympian to make it into the Hall of Fame, inducted in front of around 100 guests at Aldersley Leisure Village.

## Shanghai show

BRIERLEY Hill-based Alloy Wire International is stepping up its expansion in the Far East by exhibiting at the Wire China industry showcase in Shanghai. The company has factories in the Black Country and Yorkshire.

# Tim's royal snap on awards shortlist



Prince William at Mary Stevens Park

EXPRESS & Star chief photographer Tim Thursfield's shot of The Duke of Cambridge visiting the Black Country has been shortlisted for a top award.

His photograph of the Duke meeting the crowds in Stourbridge just last week has been shortlisted for the News Media Association's Royal Rota photography competition. The online public runs until 5pm tomorrow (Friday).

The results will be used to create a shortlist, which will be judged by a panel of industry experts to find the winners in five categories: National

Newspaper Rota Photo of the Year; Regional/Local Newspaper Rota Photo of the Year; Rota Picture Agency Rota Photo of the Year; Overall Rota Photo of the Year; Special Category - Rota photographs of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle together.

The E&S shot was taken when the Duke visited Stourbridge to unveil a statue of Frank Foley, see page 5 for more pictures. Thousands of people packed into Mary Stevens Park to honour the man dubbed 'The British Schindler' because he helped save thousands of Jewish families from

Nazi concentration camps. The secret agent used his role as passport control officer for the British embassy in Berlin, as a cover to help thousands of Jews escape from Nazi Germany. He retired to Stourbridge where he lived near Mary Stevens Park where the Duke unveiled his statue last Tuesday.

A showcase of 48 of the best photographs from Rota events is on the News Media Association's website and members of the public are invited to browse the images and vote for their favourite.

# Fatal crash driver, 20, walks free from court

**A YOUNG woman from Dudley who caused the death of a grandfather by driving without due care and attention left court in tears after being spared immediate detention.**

A lack of experience behind the wheel may have led Emily Doyle-Gibbons - 19 at the time, now 20 - to lose control of her Ford Fiesta.

Her car crossed the carriageway and ploughed head-on into a Vauxhall Corsa, killing its driver Malcolm Aplin. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that both vehicles



Emily Doyle-Gibbons - in tears

were travelling at between 45mph and 55mph - within the 60mph limit - when tragedy struck on a curve at Port Lane near Brewood around 4.15pm on June 25 last year.

Mr Aplin, a 59-year-old care home owner from Tettenhall with five children and five grandchildren, suffered 'catastrophic' injuries and died at the scene.

Doyle-Gibbons, who passed her test in January 2016, was found guilty by a 10-2 majority, following a trial, of causing death by careless driving. She spent 15 days in hospital with a fractured foot, pelvis and wrist.

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, said: "You may come to the conclusion that the speed at which she was travelling, coupled with her relative inexperience, made her incapable of reacting how a more experienced driver might have done."

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, suggested that a 'conflagration of small mistakes' caused her 'inability or failure' to correct the steering before it was too late after going over a drain.

Judge James Burbidge QC told her: "You will know the devastation you have caused and feel that keenly."

Doyle-Gibbons, of Warren Drive, was given six months detention suspended for two years, ordered to do 250 hours unpaid community work and banned from driving for five years.

## Mayor sets new fundraising record



Former mayor Councillor Dave Tyler gave £58,750 to charities after events including a dinner with Kevin Keegan

A former Mayor of Dudley has raised more than £58,000 for his chosen charities during his year in office - a borough fundraising record.

Councillor Dave Tyler handed over £58,750 to be divided between Dudley Mind, Dudley Alzheimer's Society and the

YMCA, and thanked all those who had supported his fundraising events. These had included a charity dinner with England and Liverpool football legend Kevin Keegan.

Councillor Tyler's fundraising efforts beat the previous record of £55,000 by Councillor Steve

Waltho. Councillor Tyler said: "It was an honour to serve as Mayor of Dudley, alongside my wife Barbara, and to be able to help raise funds for charities which are so close to my heart. These organisations will be able to use this money to support people going through difficult times."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gnome one knows where they went

A collection of gnomes that were on show at Dudley Zoo during the 1970s and 80s have disappeared without a trace - without even a photograph.

Now staff are appealing to members of the public, asking them to send in pictures of 'Gnomeland', which was populated by gnomes in a small system of caves lit by lamplight for visitors to the Castle Hill attraction.

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "People remember Gnomeland and talk about it, but there's a definite gap in our archives as we don't have a photo of the popular exhibit." Anyone with a photo of the gnomes is asked to email [photos@dudleyzoo.org.uk](mailto:photos@dudleyzoo.org.uk)

### School expansion gets the go-ahead

PLANS for an expansion at a school for children with mild learning difficulties have been given the green light.

Cabinet chiefs at Sandwell Council gave the go-ahead for Westminster School in Rowley Regis to increase numbers from 194 to 250, including 46 places for post-16 education and 10 in the seven to 16 age group.

A report to cabinet said the school will improve opportunities of to find jobs. Councillor Joyce Underhill said: "These are badly needed places for children with moderate learning difficulties, rather than see them struggling along in mainstream schools."

### Mind host mental health day event

A conference is being held in Stourbridge to mark World Mental Health Day on Wednesday, October 10.

Dudley Mind is hosting the event in its wellbeing cafe Food for Thought in Victoria Street from 9.30am to 4pm.

The conference will have presentations from a number of groups working in the borough with young people.

The cost is £50 which will include drinks and lunch. Call Dudley Mind on (01384) 442938 or email [enquiries@dudleymind.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dudleymind.org.uk) to book. Dudley Mind holds its annual meeting at the cafe after the conference.

### Fresh poems written on demand at library

A former Worcestershire Poet Laureate is visiting Stourbridge Library, to create poems on demand.

Fergus McGonigal will be at the library in the Crown Centre on October 4 from 11am as part of National Poetry Day. He has had three collections of his poetry published, The Failed Idealist's Guide to the Tatty Truth, Everyone Is Now Unhappy and, for children, The Thought Which Fell Down the Back of the Sofa.

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# COUNTY NEWS

## Hard rockers' gig now set in Stone

BIRMINGHAM'S latest live alternative music venue The Mill in Digbeth has announced a headline show for Walsall hard rockers Stone Broken.

The four-piece, who released their latest record Ain't Always Easy in May, will headline the venue on February 15 next year as part of their next UK tour titled Home.

A statement on The Mill's Facebook page said: "Stone Broken, presently blazing a debut tour trail across the USA, have announced their Home UK headline tour, set to take place this coming February and March, with special guests to be announced in due course."

## Marking 100 years since end of war

A SPECIAL re-enactment display is to be held at a museum to mark 100 years ago since the end of the First World War.

The Sandwell Remembers event will be held at Haden Hill House Museum, in Cradley Heath, on Sunday.

Visitors will be able to learn more about Great War soldiers with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment re-enactment group.

The free event will take place between noon and 4pm, where there will also be live music from the period.

For further information go to sandwell.gov.uk and search for Sandwell Remembers.

## Promotion ale to support hospital

A NEW beer celebrating Wolves' return to the Premier League has been created by a Shropshire brewery.

Three Tuns in Bishop's Castle, believed to be the UK's oldest brewery, has brewed five per cent ale The Pack is Back. It will be on sale in The Fox, Shipley, and Platform Ale House, Al-brighton, next month.

Brewery owner John Russell, originally from Sedgley, is a keen Wolves supporter. All profits will go to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

## Bullring set for US Morphe's next store

AMERICAN beauty giant Morphe will open its second store in the UK this year at Birmingham's Bullring.

The store is set to open in late autumn this year, but a date has not yet been set.

The brand currently only has an online presence here in the UK but wants to offer customers more.

Chiefs say they are 'excited' for the move and called the Bullring the 'perfect destination' to set up shop.

# Birthday surprise goes down a storm



Amanda Whyman, Paul Wootton, Jade and Jerome Wootton

THE force was definitely with one die-hard Star Wars fan as he surprised his daughter on her 21st birthday.

Paul Wootton, from Sedgley, left his daughter Jade overjoyed when he turned up to her birthday party at the Old Bull's Head Inn in Redhall Road, Dudley, fully kitted out in an exact replica Stormtrooper suit.

The head-turning outfit, which cost almost £1,000 and takes around an

hour to put on, saw people stopping for pictures and drivers beeping their horns in the street.

Mr Wootton said: "Jade was really over the moon. She likes Star Wars, so she was really quite surprised and shocked."

"There were lots of people commenting and having their photos taken with me. I am 55 now and I grew up with Star Wars. I always

wanted to get a suit at some point. I bought this suit last October off a couple in Warrington."

"My suit is from Episode Four: A New Hope. I bought it from them hoping to use it for other events."

Paul says he has donned the suit three times, but plans to wear it for charity. "I am hoping to do something to try and raise money for the Mid-land Air Ambulance," he said.

# 'Rape' threat blackmail woman, 20, is locked up

A woman from Stourbridge, who blackmailed a 'naive and vulnerable' man after tricking him into saying he would commit a rape, has been locked up.

Nadine McDonnell targeted her victim after coming into contact with him via the internet, a judge heard. A chat led to a meeting at which the 20-year-old McDonnell realised how unworlly he was.

In March last year she invented a friend called Kerry that resulted in him being tricked into texting something he 'deeply regretted', Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

He was then subjected to a 'campaign of blackmail' by manipulative McDonnell, said Mr Mark Stevens, prosecuting.

At the end of a 'sexually manipulative' set of conversations in more than 75 text messages exchanged on April 15 last year, he was duped into agreeing to get the defendant drunk before raping her because that was what the fictitious Kerry suggested.

Then McDonnell demanded money to buy her silence over what he had texted, forcing him to take out a £1,000 bank loan to keep her quiet. He finally cracked after handing her more than £2,000 worth of gifts and cash, telling his mother who alerted the police.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said McDonnell, of St Marks Road, who was of previous good character, was suffering from depression at the time.

McDonnell admitted blackmail and was sentenced to ten months detention.

# Well, it's another fine film you got us into

Report by Thomas Parkes

IT LOOKS like another fine film – judging by the first trailer for the new Laurel and Hardy movie filmed in the Black Country.

Cinagoers won't have to wait too long to see the film in all its glory as it gets its world premiere next month before hitting the silver screen early next year.

Steve Coogan and John C Reilly play the classic comedy duo in biopic Stan & Ollie. The film documents what would become the duo's farewell tour of the UK and shows them facing dwindling audiences while airing old grievances, battling health issues and reminiscing about the past.

Alan Partridge star Coogan plays Stan Laurel, while Ollie is played by American Reilly, who was Oscar nominated for Chicago in 2002.

## Shop

Parts of The Black Country Living Museum feature in the trailer with historic buildings including the Bottle and Glass Inn and the fish and chip shop visible in a shot.

Mancunian Coogan joined Reilly to film a short scene at the museum last year. Other filming locations for the movie include Birmingham's Old Rep Theatre and parts of Bristol.

Staff at the Tipton Road Museum said they were excited to see the attraction in the newly released trailer.

"We were delighted to see that the new trailer for Stan and Ollie features a few snippets of the museum, including our main Canal Street with the Bottle and Glass in the background as well as Hobbs' fish and chip shop," said a spokesperson.

The film gets its world premiere at the BFI London Film Festival on October 21, before its UK release on January 11.



Steve Coogan as Laurel, and John C Reilly, as Hardy, recreate the famous dance scene from Way Out West



The Black Country Living Museum features in the trailer



The stars filming at the museum in Dudley last year

# Vegan-friendly 'fish' now at pub

A PUB in Dudley has launched a vegan range of meals as part of its new menu.

The Bramford Arms, in Park Road, even offers a vegan version of pub classic fish and chips.

Produced by VBite, the vegan dish is made of fish-free 'fish' flakes, and there is also a Bakewell tart pudding, which is served with special vegan vanilla flavoured ice-cream.

Christopher Henden, general manager, said: "We know our local customers have a wide range of diets and tastes, so it's important that we experiment with exciting new dishes and flavour combinations to ensure we cater for this."

Other dishes on the special menu include chickpea and sweet potato curry and vegan falafel burger.



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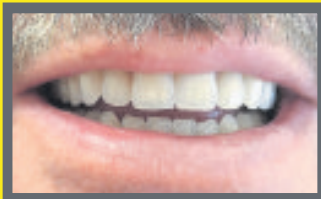
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Latest Camra prize for real ale pub

A real ale pub is to receive another award. The Beacon Hotel in Bilston Street, Sedgley, finished third in the West Midlands round of the Campaign for Real Ale's pub of the year. Dudley and South Staffs Camra were due to present the certificate at the pub last night (Wednesday).

The branch is also seeking more volunteers from the area and from neighbouring Camra branches to help with the 2018 Dudley Winter Ales Fair, from bar managers to stewards at Dudley Town Hall from November 29 to December 1. A meeting is being held in The Park Inn, Woodsetton, on October 1 at 8pm.

### Pal hits £1,000 memorial target

A SCHOOL pal of murdered paper-boy Carl Bridgewater is overjoyed at reaching his £1,000 target for a memorial bench in time for the 40th anniversary of the teenager's death last Wednesday.

Adrian Goodaker, aged 54, said: "I'm overwhelmed that people have been so generous."

The money was raised in a month after the father-of-two launched an online appeal. A bench will now be installed at one of the teenager's favourite places, Himley Hall, overlooking the lake where he used to sail.

### Beer set to flow again at Fountain

A POPULAR real ale pub is to reopen after a makeover.

The new owner of the Fountain Inn in Temple Street, Lower Gornal, has begun refurbishment, including repainting the exterior.

Former Sadler's Ales operations director Bill Redwood, who is leasing the pub, hopes to have it back in operation by October 15. It closed suddenly in January.

The Fountain has twice been a winner of the Dudley and South Staffordshire Camra branch annual pub of the year competition.

### Burger King drive-thru planned for Castlegate

PLANS for a new Burger King drive-thru restaurant in Dudley have been lodged with council bosses.

A planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council to build the restaurant alongside other restaurants and attractions at Castlegate Drive.

If approved Burger King would be located one Castlegate Business Park, which also has a Nando's, Frankie and Benny's, cinema and bowling alley.

## A Memory Walk raising awareness of Alzheimer's

A MEMORY walk will take place at Himley Hall on Sunday to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

The event follows the success of last year's walk, organised by the then Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, who has also organised this year's second walk to raise money for the dementia charity.

The route is suitable for all walkers and abilities. Families and pets are also welcome to take on the challenge, which sets off from the hall's grounds at 11am. Participants can choose to whether they want to take part in the 2km, 4km or 6km walk.

Councillor Tyler said: "As Mayor last year we held a Memory Walk and as walkers came past the start/finish line they all asked if I was organising one again. How could I say no for such a great cause?"

Emma Butler, from the Alzheimer's Society, added: "Alzheimer's Society has a significant role to play in supporting not only those with dementia but also their families and carers."

"The Memory Walk at Himley Hall helps raise much-needed funds and awareness about dementia."

To pre-book to take part in this year's event, visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/daves-memory-walk-2018-tickets-49342189818](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/daves-memory-walk-2018-tickets-49342189818) or donate to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dave-tylmemorywalk](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dave-tylmemorywalk).

## Machete brawl in street after crash

MEN said to be carrying machetes, an axe and a baseball bat clashed in broad daylight in a Dudley street after two cars crashed.

Officers were called to Dibdale Road West after the collision outside Bahia's Snooker Club.

An eyewitness said the cars had been racing on the street before ramming each other.

He said: "Two cars massively collided. Men got out of the one car brandishing machetes, an axe and a baseball bat. There was a running fight. I think it was gang related."

No arrests have yet been made following the incident at around 2pm on September 16. Anyone with information is urged to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Rugby club bonfire

A RUGBY club is to host a family bonfire and firework display this autumn. The community event is to be held at Stourbridge Rugby Club's Stourton Park ground in Bridgnorth Road on November 2 from 6.30pm.

# Jail for driver who rammed police cars

A SERIAL offender who ignored armed police and rammed two of their vehicles has been jailed for nine months.

The officers had tried to block banned driver Kieran Taplin on the car park of The Greyhound pub in Norton Road, Stourbridge, shortly before midnight on June 8.

They were looking for a man armed with a machete who had tried to force his way into a nearby house, whose occupants did not want to support a prosecution, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Armed police sent to the scene saw the parked Range Rover and three police cars tried to box it in when the driver returned to the vehicle.

Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, explained that Taplin repeatedly reversed into one of the police vehicles and side swiped another out of the way as he roared off.

The Range Rover but was later found abandoned and a search with dogs discovered 30-year-old Taplin lying in a field. A machete was found in a door pocket of the car.

### Dangerous

Taplin, who had previous convictions involving more than 40 offences, was also wanted for two earlier offences of dangerous driving.

In February he had driven the wrong way down a one-way street to evade police and in March de-

liberately drove into the door of a woman's BMW in Netherton because he wrongly thought she had sounded her horn at him. He also racially abused her.

Eleven days later he was seen at the wheel of a stolen Ford Fiesta.

Mr Curtis Myrie, defending, said Taplin had mental health issues.

Taplin of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, possession of a machete and racially aggravated harassment.

Judge Jinder Singh Boora jailed him for 40 weeks and disqualified him from driving for three years on release.

# Prince pays tribute to hero who saved families

HIS BRAVE actions saved thousands of Jews from Nazi concentration camps.

Now 60 years after his death it is clear Major Frank Foley's heroic deeds have not been forgotten as Prince William visited Stourbridge to unveil a statue of the unassuming hero whose actions as a senior passport officer in the British Embassy in 1930s Berlin saved families from the Holocaust.

Mary Stevens Park - near where Major Foley used to live in Eveson Road - was crowded for the big occasion last Tuesday afternoon. It was probably the grandest day at the park since Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited in 1957.

The Duke of Cambridge made his way down the park's boulevard, named Queen's Drive after his grandmother's visit 61 years ago.

He was greeted with chants of 'Stourbridge loves you' and was heard to comment to one spectator: "It is a lovely park you have here."

The Duke met members of Major Foley's family, descendants of some of the people he saved, as well as Dudley North MP Ian Austin and representatives of the Holocaust Educational Trust, who have campaigned to honour Major Foley in the town where he spent his retirement.

### Freedom

The statue has been created by Birmingham artist Andy De Comyn, featuring Major Foley sitting on a bench, his briefcase hinting at his work as an MI6 agent and feeding a bird, symbolising freedom.

Mr De Comyn said: "It's been eight months of work with the sculpting and foundry work. It's my first full size bronze sculpture. It is a real bonus to have His Royal Highness here and it is really nice for Frank Foley to get this recognition."

Dubbed the 'British Schindler', it is believed Major Foley saved more than 10,000 Jews from the gas chambers. It was only years later that the scale of his life-saving campaign came to light after author Michael Smith, published his book, Foley: The Spy Who Saved 10,000 Jews, in 1999.

In making his speech, Labour MP Mr Austin said: "He retired in complete anonymity, never boasting about what he did. I want people to come to the park and sit next to Frank Foley and remember a great local hero."



Prince William and Ian Austin MP admire the statue of Frank Foley, where people can sit with a true hero



Prince Williams meets guests at the unveiling



The Duke chats to one of the youngest in the

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Clearing the air just muddies the waters

CONSULTATION (noun): the process where public authorities tell lesser mortals what they have decided to do, spend lots of money encouraging the public to have their say, and then do it anyway.

Take Birmingham's clean-air zone, for example. Motorists who bought diesel cars like the Government told us to a few years ago will soon be charged £10 a day for driving into the city centre.

Here's a prediction of how it will pan out. By the time it comes into force in 2020, businesses will have already started relocating to the edge of the ring road, just outside the zone. Vast amounts of fossil fuels will be burned constructing new office blocks, business parks, shopping centres and car parks, and concerns rise about pollution and traffic around the edge of the city.

By then, the Government will have decided that it is petrol and electric rather than diesel cars that are the problem, and introduced new taxes.

Meanwhile, concerned by the number of empty buildings in the city centre, the council spends millions on regeneration plans. Local bigwigs catch a filthy great plane to Cannes to unveil their vision at the annual planning junket – before putting it out to consultation.

OF COURSE, it's never a proper consultation without a scare story and a grim warning that 'doing nothing is not an option'. And Councillor Waseem Zaffar, the man behind the clean-air charge, certainly delivered.

"Nine hundred deaths are accelerated each year as a result of air pollution," he said. "That's not the city I want my child, or any children, growing up in."

If it saves one life, and all that. Now we don't know where Councillor Zaffar got his figures from, but it is probably the 2015 study by King's College London, which seems to be the car basher's weapon of choice at the moment. It claims that in London, one in every 1,417 lives is shortened by pollution.

They rarely tell us, though, that the report's own authors admit to 'uncertainty in the evidence' and that 'figures are approximate and need to be used with care'. Still, why let facts get in the way of new taxes?

And while they happily quote scary figures about 'lives being shortened', they rarely elaborate on how much they are shortened by. Ten years? Five? Six months? Well actually the study estimated that if its recommendations were implemented in full, life expectancy would increase by a few hours. Bet you didn't hear much about that in consultation.

# People are plumper and can't squeeze into saloons



Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker – unveiling plans on trading bloc



Sir Vince Cable – this blooper will haunt him to his obituary, and beyond



Twiggy – now in her 70th year – and tale of formal dinner next to Princess Margaret

# Real reason this car is now Beetle-ing off

WHAT'S the real reason for Volkswagen ending production of the legendary Beetle? According to one report: "It was out of sync with consumers in the US where bigger cars, including crossovers and sports utility vehicles, dominate the market." The reason our roads are dominated by enormous 4x4s is not because folk live in the outback or drive off-road. It's because people are getting plumper and can no longer squeeze into saloons. In the case of the Beetle, for "out of sync" maybe instead we should really read it's "too small for fatties."

AS the campaign for a "People's Vote" rattles on, based on the claim that the British public did not understand what Brexit would mean, a reader writes: "I am watching this with interest. I am not 100 per cent sure everything was explained fully at my wedding ceremony 46 years ago."

BRITAIN'S prison system is founded on the Christian principles of penitence and rehabilitation. It is best suited to dealing with old-fashioned burglars and robbers who, if all else fails, will eventually grow out of their criminality. But a regime of rewards and early release is hopeless when it comes to dedicated jihadists who leave prison just as deranged and homicidal as they went in. Some of these religious extremists are jihadists for life. Dozens of them are coming to the end of their jail terms this year, to be released into the community they despise and have sworn to destroy.

SO here's a prediction. Before long, a jihadist freed from a British prison – and probably released early – will commit murder or mass murder. And it's not simply a question of if, but when.

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



TWIGGY entered her 70th year this week. One tabloid marked her birthday by re-telling the old tale of the formal dinner where the world-famous model was seated next to Princess Margaret, who asked her name. Twiggy replied that her real name was Lesley Hornby "but most people call me Twiggy." Turning away, the princess muttered: "How unfortunate." Two women. One a national treasure, the other a truly ghastly specimen. No prizes.

FOR those of you crying foul at the suggestion that Britain might leave the EU and then change the agreement, look at where the EU is heading, and how it is changing. The Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker has been unveiling plans to turn the Union from a mere trading bloc into a sovereign world power. The EU we are leaving is nothing like the Habsburg Empire Mk II the EU will become.

INEVITABLY, Juncker's speech included the old lie "We live on a peaceful continent, made possible by the European Union." Bunkum. Peace in Western Europe was made possible by the sacrifice of British, Russian and American soldiers and the threat of atomic weapons.

BODYGUARD (BBC1) has been a TV triumph. But the wonder is that it got beyond episode four when David Budd (Richard Madden) tried to commit suicide by putting his gun to his head and pulling the trigger. He survived, we are told,

because someone had replaced the live bullets with blanks. Don't try this at home, kids. As any old soldier will tell you, a blank can be just as deadly as the real thing. On day one of my TA recruit course all those years ago, the instructing corporal at Catterick asked for a packet of fags. One lad unwittingly handed his over. The corporal put it on the muzzle of a rifle and fired a blank. Twenty Embassy and the packaging vanished in a huge, fragrant cloud. "And that," said the corporal, as smoking bits of cardboard and tobacco fell on us, "is why you will never, ever fire a blank round directly at anybody." We only needed telling once.

THE world waited for Sir Vince Cable to deliver his much-heralded Lib-Dem Conference speech denouncing Brexiters for wanting the "erotic spasm" of leaving the EU. Cometh the moment, Cable lost his nerve and blurted out "exotic spasm." So that's it. He's 75 and no matter what he has achieved in the past or does in the future, Sir Vince knows this blooper will haunt him to his obituary, and beyond.

RACHEL Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester says we should be "mindful of our language" in case referring to God as masculine alienates some people. She doesn't like the idea of young people hearing God constantly described as "He." The snag is that Jesus, the Bible and 2,000 years of Christian tradition all refer to God in male terms. But what the heck? The Church of England has moved so far from biblical teachings already that no-one's going to notice one more little change. Especially when hardly anyone goes to church anyway.

TALKING POINT



# Catering for size seems a tall order

HOPEFULLY by the time you read this, something positive may have come of it. It relates to Louis Makepeace, the young man who claims he was denied a place at catering college because of his size.

Louis is just 3ft 10in and accused Heart of Worcester College of backtracking on offering him a definite place on a course he had set his heart upon because of his condition, called achondroplasia. The teenager claimed he was deemed a health and safety risk.

There are two sides to every story, of course, and the college said the place was still up in the air while it negotiated the necessary adjustments to its kitchens and equipment.

"We would like to state that at no point has Louis been told he could not attend his course but both Louis and Mrs Makepeace have been informed that the adjustments Louis requires will need to be agreed before an unconditional offer can be given," a statement said.

But, without a firm offer, and because of the way Louis feels he was treated, the boy has opted against enrolling anyway.

And that's such a shame that, because of the wrangle, he is unable to pursue his dream, something that all young people should be entitled to do.

The youngster claimed he is a huge fan of Gino D'Acampo and wanted to follow in his footsteps. He also said more flexibility was needed.

Under health and safety regulations, employers are expected to make the necessary amendments to cater for disabilities.

Surely society as a whole should be striving to make sure that people of all abilities can achieve their life goals.

Louis' size should not detract from his ability to do whatever is put in front of him. Sometimes, all people need is a chance to show what they can do and he wasn't being given that.

Youngsters need an aim and direction in life and cooking is something Louis loves doing. He has even shown off his culinary skills on national television since the row broke out. Sadly, other than that, it seems he has been deprived of chasing his ambition.

Yet, often, it is against all odds that real winners thrive and hopefully Louis can get the break he needs.

Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay has been among those offering support and has said he would be willing to offer him an apprenticeship.

Louis' mother also believes she hopes something good can come of the whole saga. That's food for thought.

MARK SHIPP



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## Many motorists abuse cycle lanes

I am a cyclist, I have insurance for my bike which covers if I get injured and if I damage another vehicle, the same cover that you would get with a car.

I also pay road tax because I am also a car driver, therefore I contribute to the maintenance of our roads and everything else road tax covers.

I agree cyclists shouldn't ride in pedestrian areas - which I don't - I also don't cross using pedestrian crossings.

However, whilst riding I encounter many problems which car drivers do not care

about. Many of you park in the cycle lanes which you insist we use instead of using your precious roads, which may I remind you we have as much right to use. When you're not parked in them, 70 per cent of you are driving in them. How are we meant to use them?

Does it really hurt you to drive behind a cyclist for a few minutes or allow them more room? This ignorance is what costs cyclist their lives.

**KARIS WHITEHOUSE**  
Oldbury

## Be respectful of each other

**DOUGLAS** Winterborn  
(Letters to the Editor, September 20) should know that the vast majority of cyclists are road tax payers as they are also drivers.

Most cyclists are also insured either as individuals or with their club or cycling group through organisations such as Cycling UK or British Cycling.

Many cyclists have had additional training (eg Bikeability) to assist them when out on the road and most are suitably attired.

There are cyclists and drivers who don't pay attention to the requirements that our busy roads demand but, if road users are respectful of one another, things can only improve.

**KEITH HALL**  
Stourbridge

## Putin will exploit any weakness

WITH the confirmation that the Russian state was behind the appalling and reckless use of a deadly chemical weapon on British soil, and the continued denial of responsibility from Russia, we can only conclude we are dealing with an immoral state.

Mr Putin, like other dictators before him, believes that his country has been treated unfairly in the past.

We know from recent history that a state that feels that they have been unjustly treated are a threat to world peace and only a collective and strong response can curtail their actions.

Mr Putin will look for weaknesses in his perceived enemies. He will look for disunity and he will exploit it.

Our leaders can avoid a major conflagration if they show unity and strength. We all want peace, including the Russian people

**JOHN GREEN**  
Sedgley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### EMAIL

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## Put the emphasis on people power

THE proposals for changes in Parliamentary constituencies have been criticised by sitting MPs.

These members have themselves to blame for not facing up to the fact the UK constitution is broken, not fit for purpose and needs radical reform.

A powerful driver of those voting to leave the EU was the feeling that their lives

had for too long been shaped by decisions over which they had no control.

We desperately need to downsize and refocus the House of Commons, the Lords and local government.

Power and representation for England has to be moved from Westminster to the regions

**GEORGE MORRAN**  
Dudley

## You could not make this up!

YOU couldn't make it up!

With the most serious crimewave of recent times raging on our streets, the response of the intrepid West Midlands Police Force (Soft Target Division) - clearly flushed with success from their 'test the motorists' eyesight' campaign - is to hit back hard with their 'spot the texter' campaign by deploying officers on the upper decks of buses to spy on drivers using mobile phones

Well done, lads - that'll show 'em! Peace on our streets at last.

**BRYN WILLIAMS**  
Wordsley

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# Family gives out gifts in Harrison's memory

A BLACK Country family is raising money in honour of their 'happy little soul' Harrison Meekcom.

The youngster was diagnosed with a Medulloblastoma brain tumour two weeks after his second birthday and underwent a 15-hour operation at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

After 95 per cent of the tumour was removed, he then had to endure six months of chemotherapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

In a horrific turn of events, Harrison fell off a chair and banged his head, suffering a bleed on the brain.

Despite further operations and care at the children's hospital, he could not be saved and died aged two-and-a-half in August 2016.

## Presents

Now, the Dudley-based family – made up of grandmother Carole Hipkiss, mother Nickola Hipkiss and father Lee Meekcom – are handing out presents to children at the hospital in memory of Harrison under the name of non-registered charity Harrison's Gifts.

Carole said: "They did everything to save him and, despite having a one per cent chance of surviving, Birmingham Children's Hospital asked for him back and did all they could to keep him alive. They operated on him again on August 23, 2016 and three days later the decision was made to turn his machine off – there was no brain activity whatsoever."

"I used to take bubbles and bouncy balls to the children's hospital and even though it's a small thing, it means the world to them."



Smiling Harrison during treatment



A patient opens an Easter gift bag



Carol and Nickola Hipkiss and Lee Meekcom with one of their gift boxes

"When we lost Harrison we wanted to give back to them and Nickola had the idea of setting up a Gofundme page at Christmas to raise money and get them presents."

"We raised about £735 that first time, and we did it again in Easter the following year."

"Since then it has just grown into

raising money any way we can and getting presents and paying for day trips to Blackpool and Drayton Manor for as many kids as we can."

"We want to keep Harrison's name alive and do it for him."

"I want to put smiles on their little faces. It's all about making life a little bit better for them."

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And the organisers of the event at Birmingham NEC from November 15-18 have joined with the Chronicles to offer 50 free pairs of tickets.

As well as finding great gifts for your loved ones, treats for yourself and all your sparkling Christmas essentials, you're sure to have a fun-packed day!

It will be bursting at the seams with a colourful eclectic mix of unusual stocking fillers and presents, traditional gifts, festive food and great home decorations. With 325 plus stalls all under one roof, the variety is huge, with clever gift ideas for all ages and

tastes and lots of special show offers! There's even a Present Creche to drop off your full bags.

The festive atmosphere is always fantastic and there's even more this year with new icicle lighting throughout the hall and a Victorian bandstand where live bands will take centre stage. While browsing the stalls, let the music get you into that Christmassy mood and be entertained by Santa himself, stilt walkers and pantomime characters.

Make sure you visit the food and drink area where you'll find 40 tempting stands. So, take the strain out of Christmas, enjoy a day out at the Festive Gift Fair and get your festive preparations off to a cracking start!

For more information visit [www.festivegiftfair.co.uk](http://www.festivegiftfair.co.uk)



To enter answer the question below. Send a postcard with name, address and contact number to FGF competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: October 5.

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# Dubs' first big do at the hall is van-tastic



Colin Martland from Willenhall with dogs Barnabe and Mavis and his eye-catching beach design VW van called Cookie

**THOUSANDS** turned out in their Volkswagen vans for a new festival for VW fans.

Crowds gathered at Himley Hall to mark the first Dubs Collective Party in the Park event.

Organisers brought a host of acts from live musicians to breakdancers and champion BMX rider Lee Muselwhite to entertain more than 4,000 visitors.

Event co-organiser Cheryl Drew,

from Stourbridge, said: "It has been extremely hard work for a first event but it has been amazing. We have had 2,500 camping and a couple of thousand a day visiting.

## Support

"We are so overwhelmed with the support from the Volkswagen community and the local community as well.

Cheryl and partner Darren Jones decided to put on the event for the Dubs Collective group, which has more

than 4,000 members on its Facebook page. "This is the first event we have done. Darren and I are both lovers of the Volkswagen world, so we purchased the T5 about five years ago and absolutely loved going to festivals and the festival life. So we set up a club called Dubs Collective."

The weekend had a Peaky Blinders theme, in honour of the TV drama filmed in the Black Country, and organisers are already planning next year's event, with a 1980s theme.

## Supporting people who care for a family member or friend



Information Advice Support

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## Royal recognition for street pastors



Chairman David Watts with Lord Lieutenant of West Midlands John Crabtree OBE and Sally Bournier (Chief Superintendent of Dudley Police). Back, Dudley Mayor Alan Taylor, Mayoriess Winifred Taylor and Pastors

A VOLUNTEER group which helps people get home safely after a night out has been honoured with a top award.

Stourbridge Street Pastors have been given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to recognise the group's quality of service, persistence and value to the community.

The award was formally presented at their annual meeting last week by the Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, John Crabtree.

Dave Watts, Stourbridge Street Pastors chairman, said: "We are thrilled at receiving the award which recognises the massive effort street pastors have put in to ensure Stourbridge town Centre is a safe place for its many night time visitors and the help given to the vulnerable."

"Our teams have been out every Saturday night for the last nine years and sometimes at other times. We are recognised by local visitors to our pubs and clubs as people who care and help them."

# Father, 50, in revenge attack is sent to jail

**A GRIEF-stricken man, who took violent revenge on a woman suspected of 'slagging off' his dead wife two weeks after her funeral, has been jailed for two years four months.**

Wayne Chancellor, aged 50, got help from 53-year-old friend Paul Kerr who lived in the same block as Tina Cannon, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

She opened her door to Kerr thinking he was alone when he called on March 29, said Miss Raj Punia, prosecuting. But she did not realise Chancellor had slipped in until it was too late.

**By John Scott**

woman in the face. He pulled tight on the cord around her neck. Kerr stood and watched, before stepping in, telling Chancellor to stop and getting him out.

Father-of-one Chancellor told officers the victim had been 'slagging off' his wife. Mr Gurdeep Garcha, in defence, said he was left with sole care of their daughter. The change led him to drink. Mr Martin Liddiard, for Kerr, said: "He did not physically assault or threaten the victim."

Chancellor, of Arcal Street, Sedgley, admitted assault and making threats to kill. Kerr, of Wolverhampton Street, Dudley pleaded guilty to assault and was jailed for 10 months.

## Comments

He wanted an explanation for why she had been making derogatory comments about his late wife, who died suddenly aged 40, but she denied being responsible.

The victim grabbed her mobile to phone 999 while screaming at both men to get out. The call handler heard a male voice say 'I am going to kill you', added the prosecutor.

Chancellor wrapped a dressing gown cord around his hands, declared 'lets kill her' and punched the

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**You are invited to join us to celebrate International Older Peoples Day 2018 Combating Loneliness and Isolation**

This free event is for individual older people, their carers' and representatives of organisations across all sectors working with or for older people in Dudley.

**Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street  
Monday 1st October 2018-10.30am to 2.30pm**

There will be a range of activities during the day including reminiscence sessions, health checks, a relaxation session and seated exercise – join us for all or part of the day.

Information from various organisations will be available on marketplace stalls. Free refreshments and a buffet lunch will be provided.

If you would like to book a place, or book lunch, please call Fynelle Wishart at Age UK, Dudley on **01384 354508** or email: [receptionhq@ageukdudley.org.uk](mailto:receptionhq@ageukdudley.org.uk)





14 £6.2m revamp earns council a national award

DUDLEY Council's housing services team is celebrating after scooping a national award for a multi-million pound refurbishment that has brought benefits to the health and wellbeing of tenants.

The Dudley team has won the national Association of Public Service Excellence's health and wellbeing award. The award was in recognition of the council's recent £6.2 million refurbishment of Margaret Vine and Holloway Court sheltered housing schemes.

The project, part-funded by the Government, was designed to improve tenants' quality of life.

Two years ago the council and housing partner Jessup began a makeover of 92 apartments – installing new kitchens and adding en-suite shower facilities.

Some apartments were extended and some balconies installed. The buildings also got a heating upgrade, rewiring, lift refurbishment, new door entry system and refurbished communal areas. The council also built four bungalows on land at Margaret Vine Court.

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 27, 2018

# Charity ball will raise money for Caribbean military memorial

**A CHARITY ball is being held to raise money towards a lasting legacy to honour the contribution of military personnel from the Caribbean.**

The National Caribbean Monument Charity is working to raise £500,000 for a monument which will stand in the grounds of the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield.

As part of their efforts to generate cash, members will host a ball at the National Conference Centre in Solihull on October 13.

One of the trustees of The National Caribbean Monument Charity is retired Royal Air Force Warrant Officer Donald Campbell, who lives in Tipton and finished his military career with seven years of service at RAF Cosford in 2006. He said: "This ball will be a



Donald Campbell, front, with members of the Caribbean Monument Charity night to remember and be part of our journey to make this historical monument possible. We are hoping to get as many people there as possible."

A site for the memorial paying tribute to those who fought for Britain and its colonies has been located and designs are being drawn up.

The campaign started when veteran Pauline Milnes, from London, visited the National Arboretum Memorial at Alrewas three years ago. The only mention she could find was of a 17-year-old Jamaican called Herbert Morris. Private Morris joined the 6th battalion of the British West Indies Regiment in Jamaica in 1916. He absconded after several of his comrades became casualties, was caught and executed after a court martial. He was pardoned 90 years later.

Tickets for the ball cost £55 if bought before October 4 and £60 after. See [www.the-nationalcaribbeanmonument.org](http://www.the-nationalcaribbeanmonument.org) for details

## Planning chiefs reject scheme for 18 homes

CONTROVERSIAL plans for 18 homes in Dudley have been thrown out.

Dudley Council planning bosses said the scheme, on land near Dibdale Road and Salop Street, would have represented overdevelopment and affected the 'visually prominent' location.

Patrick Timmins, representing Blake's Sheds, a firm that had voiced opposition to the plans, felt the correct decision had been made.

He said: "There were planning safety concerns. The council have reached the right decision."

A total of 14 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments would have been constructed on the vacant site, near Papa John's takeaway.

Helen Martin, chief officer of regeneration and enterprise, said: "The proposed development would encroach into an area of existing open space which forms a key characteristic of the area and by reason of the development's design, scale and layout it is considered to be detrimental to the existing pattern of development and character of the area."

# 50% of sight loss is avoidable

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Source: Specsavers and RNIB State of the Nation report 2017. ©2018 Specsavers. All rights reserved.

### ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Regular eye tests more vital than ever with ageing workforce

WITH an ageing population and record number of older people in work, Specsavers and the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) are reminding people of the importance of regular eye tests to maintain and protect their sight.

There are now more than 1.2 million Brits aged over 65 working as people continue to live longer and healthier lives. Yet research\* has revealed that 250 people start losing their sight every day even though at least half of all sight loss is avoidable. Early detection is vital in the management and successful treatment of many conditions, with regular eye tests being key. But despite that, one in four people are not having an eye test every two years as recommended.

Hairy Bikers star Dave Myers has teamed up with Specsavers and RNIB this National Eye Health Week (24-30 September) to help raise awareness of the importance of eye tests. The 61-year-old was diagnosed with glaucoma seven years ago following a routine visit to the opticians. It could have affected his career, but swift detection has protected the chef's sight by enabling him to successfully manage the condition with daily eye drops.

'I was shocked because I had no symptoms, but if it had gone unnoticed, I could have gone blind. Like so many people, my career is my passion and it's so hard to imagine doing all the things I love if I couldn't see.'

RNIB interim CEO Eliot Lyne added: 'Research shows that the older you are, the greater your



chances of developing an eye condition, so it is very important that people book themselves in for an eye test every two years.

'With the right support, people with sight loss can continue working, and if you are an employer, RNIB and other organisations can help you to properly support a member of staff who is losing their sight.'

'Advances in technology mean that blind and partially sighted people can now overcome many of the barriers to work that they faced in the past, and government schemes like Access to Work mean that many of the costs can be met.'

All Specsavers optometrists are accredited in detecting and monitoring glaucoma, cataracts and other eye health conditions. To complement their skills, Specsavers and RNIB have also launched eye health training for Specsavers' non clinical teams, including optical assistants and frame stylists, to ensure that whoever a customer first sees in-store is sympathetic to their eye care needs.

\* YouGov Survey commissioned by Specsavers and RNIB 23rd June -7th July 2017 of 6,430 UK adults aged 18+.





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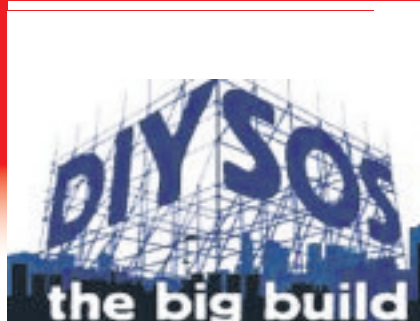
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# 16 Janet's LA rock reputation

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 27, 2018



Janet Robin recorded her latest album in Nashville Pic by Mary Grace McKernan

AN American guitarist who has played alongside Fleetwood Mac's Lindsey Buckingham is to perform at a Stourbridge pub.

From Los Angeles, Janet Robin performed in such legendary Hollywood venues as the Whiskey a Go Go and The Roxy with all-girl hard rock band Precious Metal in the 1980s.

She went on to become a member of Lindsey Buckingham's band and also played guitar for Meredith Brooks, Michelle Shocked and with Air Supply, also working with Ann and Nancy Wilson from Heart.

Her latest solo album Take Me As I Am was recorded in Nashville and produced by Johnny Cash's son, John Carter Cash.

She will be in concert at Katie Fitzgerald's on Thursday, October 4. Tickets are £8 on the door, or a pound cheaper from [www.wegotickets.com/event/447270](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/447270) or call (01384) 374410.

# Fizzog dancing granny in triathlon challenge

**FIZZOG** comedy star Jacky Fellows has raised more than £1,000 for charity by successfully completing an Olympic-style triathlon.

Jacky, one of the Fizzogs' Dancing Grannies, swam, cycled and ran to raise money for the Cosford-based Midlands Air Ambulance.

The challenge involved swimming a mile across the Netherton Reservoir, followed by a 25-mile bike ride ending at Kinver and then running six miles to the Mitre pub in Stourbridge. Jacky, who raised a total of £1,171, said she was 'amazed' by the generosity of people throughout her training and the race.

She said: "Luckily for me, I had two volunteers who swam in front and beside me so I knew exactly where I was going."

"My goggles stayed crystal clear and the anti-chafe spray that had arrived the day before worked like a dream. Consequently, everything fell into place and the swim went brilliantly. The 25-mile bike route had been planned with fine precision by members of the Barmy Team and they joined me on the ride to the Vine in Kinver. I was joined on the run by Mark and Emma Higgins from Halesowen Running Club."

"The support throughout was brilliant with Fizzogs Sue and Deb following in the car shouting encouragement and Martin Whelan following. Paul Williams, Zita Trabbocco and Brian Flatley supported me on the ride. Julia Taylor and Julieann Whitehouse guided me through the swim."

"Mike Cartwright, landlord of the Mitre, hosted the celebrations and donated £100," said Jacky.



Jacky, centre, with fellow Fizzogs Deb Nicholls and Sue Hawkins

# Trees fall as storm rages

HIGH winds caused havoc in the borough as a number of trees were felled.

Dudley Council says it responded to numerous fallen trees as Storm Ali raged last Wednesday - including one at the household waste recycling centre in Stourbridge, as well as in Amblecote Road.

Access to the recycling centre was not affected and business there con-

tinued as usual. Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member of environmental services at the local authority, said: "Our officers have made areas safe and advised any land owners where necessary."

Meanwhile, a section of roof on Debenhams in Wolverhampton's Mander Centre came away during the stormy weather.

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# Retirement flats in village get green light

**PROPOSALS** for purpose-built accommodation in Kinver for the retired have been given the green light by planning bosses.

South Staffordshire Council's planning committee approved Housing Plus Group's plans to build 20 accessible apartments to replace eight bungalows at the Burgesses in Kinver.

Bosses at the Housing Plus Group said the new development will offer self-contained apartments, social space and access to care and support – and will offer homes for older people who want to live independently.

Kerry Bolister, assistant director of development for the group, said that the decision was 'fantastic news for older people in Kinver'.

She added: "The project received strong support from people who were previously living in The Burgesses and from those who want to continue to live in Kinver but move into a home more suited to their current and future needs."

## Affordable

"That support underlines the demand for affordable, high quality retirement living accommodation in the village."

The development was backed by former residents of the Burgesses and of nearby Mill House, also owned by Housing Plus Group but the plans were not popular with Kinver Parish Council.

The parish council had recommended refusal due to highways issues, insufficient parking and the impact on the local doctor's surgery.

A design and access statement, submitted with the application, said: "The project includes the demolition of the existing bungalows and two-storey warden's house and proposes the redevelopment of the Burgesses with purpose one-bedroom apartments with a ground floor communal lounge area."

## Woman hurt as car flips



The white Skoda car ended up on its roof during the accident on Stourbridge's ring road in the early hours of Saturday

A car crashed and overturned on Stourbridge ring road but the woman who was driving was lucky to only sustain minor injuries in the accident.

Police were called to the white Skoda on its roof in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Two fire crews, from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill, were sent to make the scene safe shortly before 1am. Police put a cordon in place.

A West Midlands Fire spokesperson said: "It was on St John's Road in Stourbridge. The car was on its roof."

A West Midlands Police spokesperson said: "It was a single-car collision, damage only."

"A female driver sustained minor injuries."

"Police attended to close the road to facilitate recovery and no further police action required."

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# Bagging vintage bargains at auction

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



**MANY** women today seem to be lugging around large handbags full of all kinds of items – but in days gone by these bags tended to be rather smaller and contain different essentials.

Of course the ladies of yesteryear didn't have laptops or mobile phones to contend with – or different pairs of shoes – and so their handbags were needed only for powder compacts, lipsticks, cigarette cases, slimline purses and so on.

And these essential handbag items are very collectable today, reminiscent as they are of elegant days gone by.

Power compacts in particular are a collector's favourite and there are numerous designs to choose from.

The older the compact the more valuable it will be because they will generally have been kept either in a handbag or on a dressing table they are usually in very good condition.

Some compact collectors will buy a certain style, such as Art Deco, or go for those branded with recognised names like Stratton and Kigu.

Vintage lipstick holders are another real favourite and if you're lucky – and have enough money! – you can still buy beautiful ones made in gold and silver, some even decorated with rhinestones.



Van Cleef and Arpels made some stunning lipstick cases but others were manufactured for buyers with more modest budgets and these can be found today available at very reasonable prices.

Cigarette cases and holders are also popular with auction-goers and again they vary in price according to quality and design.

The most elegant cases were made by the likes of Chanel and Yves Saint Laurent and these are very much sought after in the saleroom today.

Some people are fascinated by the elegance of vintage handbag essentials and decide to collect a variety in different styles and designs, others opt for one particular era or designer.

They do look lovely on display and a nice collection will definitely appreciate in value as the years go by.

See you at the next sale of antiques and collectibles!

**\* The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables will take place at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth on Tuesday, October 2, from 10.30am.**

**\* Viewing is during the weekend and on Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at [www.perryandphillips.co.uk](http://www.perryandphillips.co.uk). Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.**

**\* Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.**

# Counting the cost of school sporting activities



Football is one of the more popular sports

CHILDREN are taking up new sports this school year which is increasing the price of back to school as parents fork out for sports clothing and equipment, according to new research.

A survey of more than 7,600 UK adults published by Decathlon in the Decathlon Activity Index 2018, shows that parents spend £54 on average on sports clothing and equipment per child, ahead of the new school year.

In fact, 86 per cent of those surveyed said that their keen kids will take up a new sport this year at school.

The research shows how the cost correlates to the amount of sports kids take up, with children picking up three sports on average per school year.

Even more surprisingly, more than one in seven (29 per cent) said that their child would take up five or more sports at the start of the new academic year.

When quizzed on the sports and physical activities their children intend to take part in during the new

academic year, the majority of respondents cited swimming and football as activities their child will take part in. This was closely followed by running with more than one in five intending to take part in this form of exercise during the new school year.

Tennis was also a popular sport that children intend to pick up, coming in fourth place.

## Exercise

Fitness rounded off the list of the top five sports and forms of exercise a child intends to get involved with at the start of the new school year.

Philippe Rebelo, UK marketing director at Decathlon said: "It is clear that back to school is an expensive time for many parents, but the research shows just how much is spent on sports clothing and equipment alone.

"This highlights just how quickly the cost of back to school can mount up for parents, especially if you have

more than one child in school.

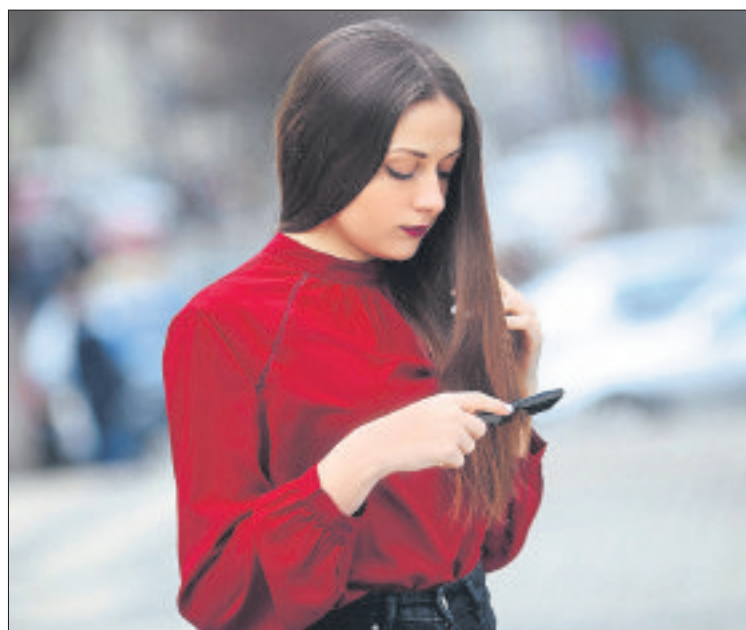
Mr Rebelo said: "However, it is important to get children to take part in sports at school, so they can form healthier lifestyles and help grow their team building skills. There are also plenty of affordable options on the market for parents to choose from and ensure their kids are kitted out for a variety of sports and activities at school, so that youngsters don't miss out."

## Top 10 sports or forms of exercise kids plan to take part in during the new academic year:

- \* Swimming – 38 per cent
- \* Football – 38 per cent
- \* Running – 20 per cent
- \* Tennis – 17 per cent
- \* Fitness – 16 per cent
- \* Athletics – 16 per cent
- \* Gymnastics – 14 per cent
- \* Dance – 14 per cent
- \* Cycling – 14 per cent
- \* Karate – 14 per cent



Towns are hit by pollution as well as big cities



Take time out to take the necessary steps to protect your hair

# Pollution in towns can make for a bad hair day

## URBAN living – it's not without challenges is it?

When days start with a crammed commute, lunchtimes are non-existent and your so-called nine-to-five-job is more like seven-to-11, it can be hard to keep your stress levels in check.

And that's only the palpable problems – don't forget that pollution lurking in the air is causing lung problems and early deaths, according to the World Health Organisation.

What's this got to do with beauty? Well, it turns out that pollution may be the cause of bad hair days, as well as poor health.

And it's not just big cities that are affected, either.

A recent WHO report found that 30 places in the UK exceeded a crucial 10 micrograms of pollutants per cubic metre measure.

Scunthorpe showed the highest levels, and destinations including Gillingham, Carlisle and Chester came in the top ten, alongside larger cities like Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool.

"If you live in a city and your hair is feeling dull and dry, or you've developed an itchy scalp, then pollution could be to blame," says Nick Irwin, global development director of Muk haircare.

"In the same way pollution can affect the skin, it affects the hair. Depleting the body of certain nutrients can affect hair growth and condition, plus,

## Report by Katie Wright

with pollutants literally sitting on the hair, it can look dull and dry."

"Air pollution can significantly damage your hair in a number of ways," explains Betsy Patel, chemist from Living Proof.

"Exposure to air pollution can damage the proteins in hair, making it more susceptible to breakage and further damage. Oil droplets and solid particles can adhere to your hair, so the result – in some instances – is that your hair can feel noticeably rougher."

So, what can be done to prevent the effects of pollution – aside from relocating to a rural idyll?

"Washing your hair regularly will wash off the pollutants on your hair, so make sure you use a shampoo and conditioner for your hair type," Irwin advises.

"Cleansing your hair properly is so important," Patel agrees. "You don't want to wash your hair too frequently, because this can strip your hair of its natural oils and further perpetuate that damage, but you do want to be able to remove all of the small particles and oil droplets."

As a preventative measure, look for masks or styling products with "restorative benefits that can help reveal the cuticle and strengthen the cortex," Patel advises. To treat an itchy scalp, choose a shampoo with soothing and clarifying ingredients, like charcoal or echinacea.



Pollution can have a damaging impact on your locks



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## Exploring royal roots of ballet

Birmingham Royal Ballet's Fire & Fury programme, staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from October 3 to 8, features two ballets fuelled by power and politics.

The King Dances, choreographed by BRB company director David Bintley, looks at the very beginnings of ballet at the court of the young King Louis XIV of France.

The other half of the programme, Juanjo Arqués' Ignite, demonstrates that the flames of the art form still burn brightly.

In The King Dances, Bintley recreates the spectacular proto-ballet when the king of France danced the role of the Sun God in a spectacular court entertainment, earning his label The Sun King.

But beneath the veneer of the glittering and fashionable court lies a desperate struggle for power between the young king and his mentor, Count Mazarin.

Inspired by ballet's very first steps, an all-male ensemble displays virtuosity in this powerful and compelling piece.

Ignite by Arqués has been commissioned as part of Birmingham Royal Ballet's pioneering Ballet Now talent development programme, and features brand new designs from Tatyana Van Walsum and a score from Kate Whitley, co-founder of The Multi-Story Orchestra.

Inspired by Turner's painting 'The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons', Ignite translates vibrant colour into atmospheric and symbolic choreography.

Scott Matthews – his version of the blues has won fans



## The best is yet to come

Wolverhampton's Scott Matthews, the Ivor Novello-winning songwriter, has toured with Foo Fighters, played Sydney Opera House and thought about calling his band The Wanderers in honour of his favourite football club.

The performer who grew up on a diet of Led Zeppelin before breaking through with hit single, Elusive, is seven albums into his career.

Tomorrow (Friday), local fans will get a rare chance to see an intimate home city gig when the 21st century bluesman headlines Newhampton Arts Centre.

Matthews has been on the road for years but in the past year or so things have changed, he's become a father and recently married his long-term partner, Sally. Married life suits him.

"It's all changed," he laughs, from his home just north of the city. "Since Elliott came along, it's been a sort of wonderful chaos. On

reflection, I probably wouldn't have released a record this year had I known."

Elliott was the inspiration for his most recent album, The Great Untold – a collection of songs that were stripped back, lyrically insightful and brimful of emotion.

"The feedback from the hardcore fans has been brilliant. They seem to think it's my best album yet," he adds. "But I don't feel I've put my best work out yet. I still believe the best is yet to come."

## Symphonic sounds from the movies

Symphony Hall in Birmingham hosts spectacular shows with a movie theme this autumn, plus a Last Night at the Proms style extravaganza.

Symphonic Fantasy on October 19 features music from Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, the Harry Potter and Pirates of the Caribbean movies. This will be performed by the London Concert Orchestra and Canzonetta choir.

The London Concert Orchestra return on November 9 for The Music of Stars Wars And Beyond, a sci-fi spectacular with lasers and indoor fireworks to accompany music from ET, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Alien, Jurassic Park, Inception, Star Trek and, of course, Star Wars.

The music of Ol' Blue Eyes will be celebrated when Simply Sinatra, a Sunday matinee concert on November 18, features a 27-piece band with dancers and singers Matt Ford and Victoria Hamilton-Barritt.

Following sold out success last year, Spectacular Classics is back for Saturday matinee and evening performances on November 10. The city of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Choir, conducted by Anthony Inglis, will perform such Prom favourites as Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory in a programme of popular classics. The highlight will be an explosive 1812 Overture complete with indoor cannon and fireworks finale.

For tickets see [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) or call 0121 780 3333.



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The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and

8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."





The star cast for Peter Pan



## Peter Pan set to dazzle panto fans at Hippodrome

A swashbuckling production of Peter Pan will dazzle tens of thousands of pantomime-goers this festive season.

It marks the panto debut of Essington-raised comedian, actor and writer Meera Syal, who will play a Mermaid in the production at Birmingham Hippodrome, from December 19 until the end of January.

The show's all-star cast also includes returning favourite Matt

Slack, back for his sixth successive Hippodrome stint, plus boyband star Jaymi Hensley, from Union J, and the youngest of 70s stars the Osmond brothers, Jimmy Osmond, as Captain Hook.

Rehearsals started last week and producers promise it will be the UK's biggest and best pantomime.

Matt Slack said: "People always ask me how are we going to top the show from the previous year. Well, last year's was certainly great, with a brilliant cast, but this year's really is

going to be exceptional. We've got a lot of surprises in store."

Jimmy Osmond added: "I've done eight pantomimes and this will be the biggest.

"I'm delighted to be back in Birmingham. I always enjoy a very warm reception when I come here. I've had some great times in the city over the years, playing concerts and appearing at the Hippodrome in Chicago and Grease. So it's wonderful to be back. It feels like home."

## Chris has got Organisation to bring blues to Bilston

Blues and soul bassist Chris Bevington brings his Organisation to Bilston's Robin 2 venue on October 3.

The current line-up of this highly popular nine-piece outfit features Jim Kirkpatrick from FM, plus the Vocals of Kate Robertson and Sarah Miller from Nearly Dan, and the vocal and guitar talents of Scott Ralph. The band also feature Adrian Gibson (trumpet) and Mike Yorke (sax).

The Chris Bevington Organisation released a third album Cut And Run this year. The LP features 12 original tracks written and produced by Scott Ralph and Jim Kirkpatrick and will be available on digital, CD and Vinyl.

Chris said: "I must say that I am very lucky to work with such

a wonderful team of musicians. Everyone has worked so hard preparing their individual parts and giving all their time, love and effort.

"The collaboration has created a truly unique band album and sound. It's just brilliant. So now our job is complete and it's time to let you hear it and we really hope you like it – and turn the volume up!"

Advance tickets cost £10 or £12 on the door. Birmingham's self-styled boogie woogie babe, pianist Emma Jonson, is supporting. See [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk) or call 01902 401211.

Meanwhile, on Saturday Brian Downey's Alive and Dangerous play the Robin when the Thin Lizzy drummer will be joined by Irish rockers Matt Wilson, Phil Edgar and Brian Grace.



Chris Bevington

## Arenacross will roar back in the new year | Pop getting personal with Christine/Chris

It's back, bigger, louder, faster than ever before – the spectacular Arenacross Tour returns for 2019 with the fast-paced show coming to Birmingham, roaring into the Genting Arena on February 1 and 2.

The UK's fastest indoor show promises the craziest indoor motocross racers and freestyle MX stars from across the globe.

Matt Bates, CEO of ASL Active, who produce Arenacross, says "Arenacross never fails to entertain huge audiences year after year and, as we enter our seventh year of staging the tour, we're more excited than ever to continue growing our audience of AX fans. Arenacross isn't just indoor motocross, it's an entire night of choreographed entertainment that includes a great soundtrack, pyro, lasers and live screen back-stage action."

Tickets are on sale via [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com) or by calling 0844 3388 222. Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Ticket prices vary.

Christine and The Queens released second album, Chris, last week and will be coming to Birmingham as part of a UK tour in November.

Chaleur Humaine was the UK's biggest-selling debut album in 2016 and it's eagerly-awaited sequel is unlikely to disappoint with its quirky, twitchy electro-pop, exploring gender politics and the sense of being an outsider with the invention of masculine alter-ego Chris.

"Chaleur Humaine was about teenage years, most of it," says Heloise Letissier, AKA Christine/Chris. "The second album could have been me finding a fancy producer in LA and doing the pop s\*\*\*t but actually, no, I wanted to make it even more personal."

The Nantes-born singer's voice is more powerful and the songs even more infectious, particularly hit song Girlfriend, and other key tracks include Doesn't Matter, 5 dollars, What's-her-face and Make some sense.

Christine and The Queens play the O2 Academy in Birmingham on November 26 and it is likely to be a sell out.

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### COMMERCIAL FEATURE

## MUSICAL TREATS IN THE NEW WELLINGTON



For the early started amongst us they also offer a buffet style all you can eat breakfast from 8am to 11am, which has been brought back by popular demand.

The New Wellington also offers a Disco and Karaoke every Friday night, So why not come down and have a sing along!

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Set on the main Stourbridge to Dudley Road, not far off Brierley Hill high street, the venue offers a carvery all day everyday from 12 noon to 8pm with a selected main menu from 5pm. With Kids eating Free throughout the school holidays. T's & C's apply



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CHOICE



**The Cry (BBC1, 9pm)**  
Jenna Coleman stars in the first of a four-part dramatisation of Helen Fitzgerald's novel. Joanna travels with her partner Alistair and their baby son to Australia, where Alistair hopes to campaign for custody of his teenage daughter from a previous marriage. Their journey ends in tragedy when the child goes missing, with devastating psychological repercussions for the distraught mother. With Ewen Leslie, Stella Gonet, Markella Kavenagh and Asher Keddie.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **8.25** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.15** Points of View. **2.30** Songs of Praise. **3.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.05** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.00** Impossible Celebrities. **5.50** BBC News.  
**6.05** Regional Programme.  
**6.15** Countryfile. Sean Fletcher visits a habitat creation project in Herefordshire, which is home to otters, water rail, bitterns and grass snakes. Margherita Taylor visits an orchard where a popular medieval drink is being revived, Matt Baker takes a look ahead to this year's Children in Need Rumble, and Tom Heap reports on drug gangs targeting vulnerable rural children. Plus, John Craven announces the winner of this year's photographic competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**7.15** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the results of last night's show, revealing which of the couples will be first to leave the contest. Featuring a performance by George Ezra.  
**8.00** Antiques Roadshow. A return visit to the historic Abbey Pumping station in Leicester, where playwright Joe Orton's sister brings in the typewriter on which he wrote some of his most important scripts.  
**9.00** The Cry. New series. Dramatisation of Helen Fitzgerald's novel about a mother dealing with the psychological repercussions of her child going missing. Starring Jenna Coleman.  
**10.00** BBC News.  
**10.20** Regional Programme.  
**10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews Sunday's Premier League action, featuring highlights of the one and only game of the day – Cardiff City v Burnley at the Cardiff City Stadium.  
**11.15** The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.  
**11.50** Film: You Again. (2010)  
**1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.05** Great British Menu. (R) **6.35** Great British Menu. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Athletics: Great Scottish Run. **1.45** Cycling: Road World Championships. The climax to the elite men's road race in Austria. **4.30** Super Small Animals. (R) **5.30** Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? (R)  
**6.30** Before Grenfell: A Hidden History. The residents of Kensington and the community around Grenfell Tower tell the story, 150 years in the making, of how their borough became the most unequal place in Britain. Those local to the area share their memories of the dramatic events that shaped their community – from exploitation by notorious landlord Peter Rachman in the 1950s, to the first Notting Hill race riots, and the construction of Grenfell Tower in the 1970s. This is the untold story of a unique part of west London, revealing how its past has shaped its present. Narrated by Danny John-Jules. (R)  
**7.30** Golf: Ryder Cup Highlights. Eilidh Barbour presents action from day three of the 42nd Ryder Cup from the Albatros Course of Le Golf National near Paris, where Europe took on USA. With commentary from Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Ned Michaels.  
**9.30** Mock the Week. (R)  
**10.00** Motherland. Julia's child care problems are solved after she finds the perfect nanny, but her friendship with Liz is strained, and Amanda is keeping a low profile. Last in the series. (R)  
**10.30** No Activity. New series. Stokes and Hendy are assigned to stake out a house belonging to a couple who have been abducted – unaware the kidnappers are holding them in the basement.  
**10.55** No Activity. Neddy tries to explain rugby to Steve after a scandalous video of a player at a post-match party goes viral. Outside in the car, Stokes celebrates his birthday.  
**11.20** The Mighty Redcar. Tory activist Jade battles to win the hearts and minds of the predominantly Labour town. Last in the series. (R)  
**12.05** Billion Dollar Deals and How They Changed Your World. (R) **1.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise. (R) **9.55** Emmerdale 1918. (R) **10.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **12.15** WOS Wrestling. (R) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** The X Factor. (R) **3.00** Back to Mine. **3.30** Celebrity Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** Queen of the World. (R)  
**6.30** ITV News: Weather.  
**6.45** Regional Programme: Weather.  
**7.00** 5 Gold Rings. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which a married couple and two work colleagues compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor in five increasingly difficult stages.  
**8.00** The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary hosts the second of the three Six Chair Challenge episodes, in which the acts perform individually before the judges choose who will be selected for the next stage. However, even if a contender is selected to go through to the next stage, the judges are free to change their minds and ditch them if a more promising alternative comes along later in the show.  
**9.00** Vanity Fair. Becky works out how to live well on nothing a year, but flies too high as she joins the dizzy ranks of lords, ladies and kings.  
**10.05** The Imitation Game. Alexander Armstrong hosts the impressions-based panel show, with Rory Bremner, Debra Stephenson, Jess Robinson and Lewis Macleod performing celebrity fairy tales.  
**10.40** ITV News: Weather.  
**11.05** Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure. Joanna travels to the Islamic Republic of Iran, where she meets many people eager to share the culture and innovations of the Persian civilisation. (R)  
**12.00** Strangers. Jonah realises Megan was involved with Hong Kong's most dangerous players. (R) **12.50** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.05** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.00** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Film: Bend It Like Beckham. (2002) Comedy, starring Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley. **3.10** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.25** Grand Designs. (R)  
**6.25** Channel 4 News.  
**6.45** Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones and David Coulthard present action from the 16th round of the season at the Sochi Autodrom. Lewis Hamilton went into this race with a 40-point lead in the standings over Sebastian Vettel, having won seven races so far this season, including four of the last five.  
**9.00** Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls. After two weeks on the island, three members of the team have already been driven to quit by the lack of food and brutal weather conditions. Pete Wickes has persuaded the remaining castaways to refrain from killing land animals for food, and they have survived on a diet of fish and yucca. However, they are struggling to catch any fish, and the group's resolve is sorely tested when a wild pig comes close to the camp. The desperate islanders are forced into a decision that sends shockwaves through the camp.  
**10.00** The Circle. Series assessing the impact of social media, in which individuals from all walks of life compete in a popularity contest to win up to £50,000.  
**11.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with Sean Lock and Sara Pascoe taking on Jon Richardson and Josh Widdicombe. (R)  
**12.00** Film: Before I Go to Sleep. (2014) Thriller, starring Nicole Kidman. **1.35** George Clarke's Amazing Houseboats. George Clarke recalls some of his favourite houseboat projects. (R) **2.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. The host helps a Portsmouth duo modernise their living room. (R) **3.25** Grand Designs New Zealand. A pastor and his wife plan to build a house on a crumbling cliff. (R) **4.20** Vet on the Hill. (R) **5.15** Buy It Now. (R) **5.40** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **5.50** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Dobby Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Rusty Rivets. (R) **7.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Pirata & Capitano. (R) **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.30** Fiogals. (R) **9.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **10.45** Monkeys Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Friends. (R) **1.00** Friends. (R) **1.30** Friends. (R) **2.00** Friends. (R) **2.30** Friends. (R) **3.00** Friends. (R) **3.30** Friends. (R) **4.00** Friends. (R) **4.25** Friends. (R) **4.55** Friends. (R) **5.25** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey.  
**6.50** Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. (1991) An English nobleman returns home from the crusades to find his father has been murdered and the local people are repressed by the tyrannical rule of the Sheriff of Nottingham. Branded an outlaw, he recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner. Alan Rickman, Morgan Freeman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio. Edited for language and violence.  
**7.50** 5 News Update.  
**7.55** Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. (1991) Concluded.  
**9.55** 5 News Weekend.  
**10.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.  
**11.30** Film: The Bucket List. (2007) Two terminally ill men plan to enjoy the time they have left by working through a list of things they have always wanted to do. Comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman.  
**1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **4.00** Ben Fogle's Greatest Bridges. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Great Scientists. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Engineering Giants: Jumbo Jet Strip-Down **8.00** James May's Cars of the People **9.00** Farther and Sun: A Dyslexic Road Trip **10.00** Feud: Bette and Joan **11.45** The Last Explorers **12.45** Treasures of Ancient Greece **1.45** Pappano's Classical Voices **2.45** James May's Cars of the People **3.45** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.45** The X Factor **1.15** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.45** Film: Twister (1996) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Twister (1996) **4.00** Film: The LEGO Movie (2014) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: The LEGO Movie (2014) **6.00** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **8.00** Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **12.55** Ghosted **1.25** Release the Hounds: Famous & Freaked **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**12.55** Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **2.40** Film: Columbo: Sex and the Married Detective (1989) **4.40** Foyle's War **9.00** Lewis **11.05** Wire in the Blood **1.10** A Touch of Frost **3.00** Road to Avonlea **4.35** Murder, She Wrote **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**ITV4**  
**6.30** Football's Greatest: Johan Cruyff **7.00** Pawn Stars **7.20** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00** Film: The Blues Brothers (1980) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Blues Brothers (1980) **11.40** River Monsters **12.45** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **1.45** The Avengers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.25** Young Sheldon **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.55** Film: Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) **6.45** Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.00** Krypton **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Krypton **2.55** Rude Tube **3.20** Hollyoaks  
**Film4**  
**11.00** The House of Magic (2013) **12.45** Anna and the King (1999) **3.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **6.00** Star Trek Into Darkness Interview Special **6.10** The Abyss (1989) **9.00** Taken 2 (2012) **10.50** The Watch (2012) **12.55** A Private Function (1984) **2.55** Close

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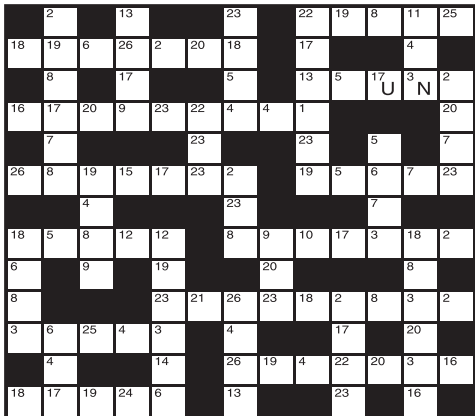


# BRAIN GYM

No.499

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	C	L	T	X	I	M	S	G	F	N	R	V	Z
2	K	E	U	O	Y	A	W	D	Q	J	P	B	H

1	14
2	15
3	N
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

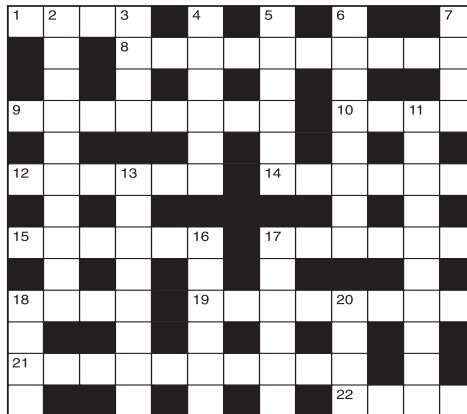
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Restrain dog with big head (4)
- Voters choose to speak (10)
- Setback with furniture can be examined (8)
- Thus return publicity for chemical (4)
- Puts back part of organ in dazed state (6)
- Not being impartial with short branch line (6)
- Streak round person on ice (6)
- Is in a hurry to get water-plants (6)
- Little bird tells us he was a great architect? (4)
- Hatched used by boy on a bird of prey (8)
- Mobilise forces with an affectionate summons to infant? (4,2,4)
- Carry off girl from 15 when upset (4)

#### Down

- Funeral director doesn't have a big enough income? (10)
- Win against 7 (4)
- I object to doctor having hesitation in becoming society man (6)
- Not leaving the birds alone in Greece (6)
- Has bias beforehand, but still takes the chair (8)
- Gamble on a letter from 5, perhaps (4)
- Sheer drudgery despite university teacher having answer book (6-4)
- Obviously keep busy round a temporary home (8)
- Iran to share (6)
- Notice correct work again (6)
- It's almost sinful, but it keeps the flame burning (4)
- Lots of people and an entertainer (4)



### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Slight quarrel (4)
- Luxuriance (10)
- Motherly (8)
- Sickle (4)
- Chastise (6)
- Soften (6)
- Brigand (6)
- Die (6)
- Spool (4)
- Rapturous (8)
- Belligerent (10)
- Curse (4)

#### Down

- Spotless (10)
- Gala (4)
- Extinguish (6)
- Hawker (6)
- Single man (8)
- Look for (4)
- All-knowing (10)
- Lazy (8)
- Ditch (6)
- Clergyman (6)
- Thick cord (4)
- Too (4)

## Sudoku

		1	7			6		3
	5	7	3		6			
8				1		4	2	
	2				9			6
6			2		8		9	
	6	2		5				8
					3	1	7	
		3			4	2		

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	2	8	6	5	9	4	3	1
6	1	3	7	2	4	9	8	5
4	9	5	8	3	1	7	2	6
9	3	4	5	8	7	6	1	2
8	5	1	4	6	2	3	9	7
2	6	7	1	9	3	5	4	8
3	7	2	9	1	5	8	6	4
1	4	6	3	7	8	2	5	9
5	8	9	2	4	6	1	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Lemon; 8 Profuse; 9 Houdini; 10 Outer; 12 Stagnation; 15 Shape badly; 18 Shout; 19 Rawhide; 21 Desists; 22 Tiara. Down: 1 Alchemists; 2 Amour; 3 Anti; 4 Spring; 5 Monorail; 6 Curtail; 11 Run like mad; 13 Treatise; 14 Papoose; 16 Arrest; 17 Vicar; 20 Wits. QUICK - Across: 7 Obese; 8 Elation; 9 Kingdom; 10 Tramp; 12 Particular; 15 Peccadillo; 18 Rally; 19 Arduous; 21 Astride; 22 Sight. Down: 1 Bookkeeper; 2 Means; 3 Lend; 4 Permit; 5 Nautical; 6 Disable; 11 Perversity; 13 Analysis; 14 Acolyte; 16 Images; 17 Tough; 20 Dash.

## Quiz

- Which screenwriter won Oscars for Dr Zhivago and Lawrence of Arabia?
- What is a conger?
- In Greek legend, who was Electra's brother?
- Of which city's council was Derek Hatton deputy leader?
- Of which fictional character is George Frampton's statue in Kensington Gardens?

- Gyres are large-scale rotations of what?
- Of what is the dogfish a species?
- Which space probe made the first fly-by of Venus?
- What was Jerome K Jerome's middle name?
- In which US state were the Mormons founded?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 White blood cell; 2 Mir; 3 London; 4 Ultra high frequency; 5 Doug McClure; 6 Rodent; 7 Danish; 8 Edward Jenner; 9 Oglala Lakota (Sioux); 10 Ejector seat.

Niner: GLADSTONE

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

51987  
3878  
64229

gives Saudi currency,  
gives Samoan currency,  
gives a small coin.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Vauxhall targeting family car market with new Combo Life

By John Griffiths

While sports utility vehicles are flavour of the month, Vauxhall (which already has three such models) is now setting its sights on the real family car market.

Its new Combo Life may not be the prettiest new car out there, but it's hard to think of one which is more versatile and practical. It will be easily recognisable as a member of the family of enduringly popular cars from Vauxhall's new owners, the PSA Group, including the Citroen Berlingo Multispace and the Peugeot Partner.

With prices from £19,610, the new Vauxhall comes in two sizes – standard and long, or XL wheelbase – and there are available as either five or, for the first time seven-seaters.

New more efficient engines, new technology and the cargo capacity of a small van make the Combo Life an impressively versatile machine.

It hasn't been built on a van platform – in fact its a brand new platform built as a car, which will form the underpinnings of other new models across the PSA group – and this is reflected in its ride comfort.

The cabin has room for five or seven adults in comfort with generous head and leg room, with almost 600 litres of boot space – or 2,126 litres with all three of the individual second row seats folded down. The larger XL's capacity ranges from 855 to 2,695 litres and in both there are no less than 28 individual storage compartments of various shapes and sizes around the cabin. Rear seats are easily accessed by large folding doors on both sides.



The new Vauxhall Combo Life comes in two sizes

Like the fashionable demand for SUVs, the market for cars like the Combo Life is growing throughout Europe.

Customers include small businesses who want a workhorse during the week and to take the family out at weekends, those who need to take a wheelchair or mobility scooter with them, families who want to take bikes or other travel equipment with them, or in the case of the Combo families carrying up to five children, a dog and luggage.

The three individual seats in the second row fold flat, and in the case of the seven-seater (which costs £700 over the equivalent standard model) the two seats in the third row are removable.

Vauxhall expects petrol to be the most popular choice, with a new 1.2 litre turning out 110bhp. Its official fuel economy figure is 51.4mpg with a CO emissions rating of 125g/km. A more powerful, 130PS version will be available in the new year. The diesel engine is a new 1.5 litre unit which will be introduced across the group's range, claimed to be learner and greener than its 1.6 predecessor. It is also available in 110 or 130PS versions – the smaller engine being the economy king with an average of 67.3mpg and a low 111g/km of CO2 but the 130PS version is only a couple of mpg behind.

As well as using AdBlue, the new diesel incorporates a particulate filter and the latest technology to drastically cut harmful NOx emissions to levels well below current European standards.

The 'infotainment' system is important for a family vehicle and the Combo Life naturally has the latest version of the familiar Vauxhall system, with a central colour touchscreen for, among other functions, the 3D navigation system complete with live traffic updates and DAB radio. It is compatible with android and iPhones, with wireless charging an optional extra.

Vauxhall isn't new to the world of compact MPVs with the successful Zafira and Meriva among its previous models, but the Combo life is a new direction, with its exceptional space and even more versatility – particularly with the longer wheelbase, seven seat alternative.

The driving experience is quiet and refined, and all the latest technology (if not already fitted) is available as an option. It is big, comfortable and airy and rivals are beaten when it comes to the variety of tasks it can easily perform.



There's a 3D navigation system with live traffic updates

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16	Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 BlueHDi Platinum White 13k	£9,695	15 Skoda Yeti Estate 1.2 TSI SE DSG Grey 43k	£10,695
16	Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 BlueHDi Platinum Red 19k	£8,995	Vauxhall	
62	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi Platinum Blue 50k	£6,995	63 Vauxhall Agila Hatchback 1.2 VVT SE Auto Silver 20k	£6,495
15	Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 BlueHDi Exclusive EAT6 Red 33k	£12,495	07 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Design Auto Mauve 48k	£3,495
15	Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 BlueHDi Exclusive EAT6 Silver 21k	£12,995	15 Vauxhall Corsa Hatchback 1.4 SE Auto Grey 28k	£8,795
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63	Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 140 Zetec Business Edit P/Shift Silver 24k	£8,995	17 Audi Q7 3.0 TDI Quattro S Line Tip Auto Grey 19k	£45,995
Hyundai		14	BMW X1 Diesel Estate sDrive 18d Sport Step Auto Grey 34k	£13,495
12	Hyundai I10 Hatchback 1.2 Active Silver 27k	£4,495	59 Honda Civic Hatchback 1.4 i-VTEC Type S 3dr Silver 77k	£3,995
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		02	Mini Hatchback 1.6 One 3dr Yellow 69k	£2,495
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There will be a host of black accents

## A fresh tease for the new Kodiaq

Another day, another teaser for the Skoda Kodiaq vRS – with the performance-orientated SUV set to debut at next month's Paris Motor Show.

Having trickled a few details and images into the public domain in recent months, the Czech firm has revealed some more information about the car before it's seen in full.

The Kodiaq vRS will be distinguishable from the rest of the SUV's range thanks to a host of black accents – namely the grille, roof rails, window frames and wing mirrors. Other vRS hallmarks include two exhaust pipes at the back, along with a red reflector covering the width of the Kodiaq.

Adding to the racier look is a set of 20-inch alloy wheels, housing 17-inch brake discs complete with red callipers.

The icing on the cake? A newly designed vRS logo, which sees the 'v' now finished in red, rather than the chrome or green of previous machines to wear the badge. Skoda says this 'symbolises the sportiness and power of the vRS family', with the badge on the front grille and at the rear of the car.

Previously revealed information includes its 2.0-litre twin-turbocharged diesel engine, which will send 236bhp to all four wheels. No word yet on what that means for performance, but Nurburgring expert Sabine Schmitz managed to take a prototype around the 12.9-mile 'Green Hell' in 9:29.84 – a lap record for seven-seat cars.

The Skoda Kodiaq vRS will be revealed in full at the Paris Motor Show, taking place from October 4 to 14. Expect to hear more on pricing, specifications and availability following that.

## Toyota celebrates 20 years of the Yaris



The Yaris Y20 has a classic gold colour

Toyota is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its European best-selling hatchback the Yaris with a new special edition – the Y20.

Debuting as part of a revised range for the third-generation hatchback, the Yaris Y20 brings a classic gold colour that appeared on the first car to the new machine but gives it a modern twist with a bi-tone dark grey roof.

That hue will be limited to 1,998 units – marking the Yaris's 1998 debut – but more colours will follow, namely silver, white or black, each with a bi-tone roof.

A number of grey highlights will also help to distinguish the Y20 – including on the 16-inch alloy wheels, side mouldings, front grille, door mirror casings and fog light surrounds.

The theme continues inside, with a dark grey centre console and steering wheel inserts, along with a new check-patterned fabric upholstery. Satin chrome air vents feature too, as do black floor mats with silver edging.

The icing on the cake is Y20 badging at the rear of the car and on the instrument panel.

There is no word yet on powertrain options, but expect the trim to be available for both the 1.5-litre petrol option and its hybrid sibling.

The Toyota Yaris Y20 will join the GR Sport to swell the hatchback's range, with the latter taking inspiration from the limited-run GRMN hot hatch with a number of racy additions.

# Dacia Duster wins best off-roader in new car awards

By Sharon Walters

The all-new Dacia Duster has been crowned Best Off-Roader by the Parkers team as part of its New Car Awards 2019, with the Duster praised as "the perfect choice" for the award.

The judges recognised the off-road capabilities of the Duster as being unstoppable in some of the world's most hostile environments with the new model only building on this toughness.

The new Duster was also praised as being more refined and better to drive, with a higher quality interior than before, all at an affordable price.

Speaking on the win for the new Duster, Parkers editor, Keith Adams said: "The Dacia Duster really is all things to all people, and clear proof that Dacia is a car manufacturer on the move.

"Low-cost PCP and keen list prices might drive people into showrooms for this family SUV with great off-road potential, but the car's all-round excellence are what will have them returning time and time again."

### Reflect

The Parkers New Car Awards moves into its second year after a successful launch last year. The categories are designed to reflect the requirements of Britain's car-buying public with the winners all chosen based on the buying habits of the website's 2.9+ million users actively involved in the buying process.

The winning cars have been tested rigorously by the Parkers.co.uk team, which judged them on a combination of cost per month, value, quality, excellence and fitness for purpose.

Commenting on the latest award win for Dacia, Louise O'Sullivan, Head of Dacia UK said: "We're incredibly pleased that the Duster has won the first ever Parkers Best Off-Roader award.

"Just a few months after the car went on sale here in the UK it's great to see that the all-new Duster is proving as popular with the industry as the previous model, by offering an unbeatable combination of ruggedness, quality and value for money."

The new Duster went on sale in the UK earlier this year, starting at £9,995, with a host of new improvements over the previous model.

Every single body panel on the car is new, with a fully revised interior for better quality and comfort as well as featuring many new technologies and safety features never before available on the Dacia range.

To find out more about the All-New Dacia Duster visit: [dacia.co.uk/vehicles/our-range/all-new-duster.html](http://dacia.co.uk/vehicles/our-range/all-new-duster.html).



The new Duster was also praised as being more refined and better to drive



Every single body panel on the car is new, with a fully revised interior

# Experts say learn from those 'oops factor' moments and cut your risk on the road

**Road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging drivers to reflect on the dangerous moments they have experienced at the wheel, to reduce the risks they face on future road journeys.**

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth comments: "We are all familiar with those 'oops factor' moments of danger, where no harm was actually done but where we came close to disaster."

"We're encouraging drivers to set aside time thinking about their own particular 'oops factor' moments. But rather than dwell on the danger and risk being distracted, wait until the end of a journey and set aside a few moments to think about why it happened.

"That short period of reflection may be all you need to identify the reason, and to adapt your observation or concentration techniques to prevent a similar situation happening again."

GEM has produced the following four simple tips to reduce risk for drivers:

Think about risk on journeys. This risk could come from a dangerous stretch of

road, from adverse weather, an unwise choice of speed or from a lack of focus on the driving task.

Expect the unexpected. This is especially true on familiar stretches of road. Keep your guard up, anticipate what could happen and stay ahead of the situation, rather than having to react urgently.

### Risk

Eliminate the word 'suddenly' from your driving vocabulary. By identifying all the possible areas of risk, you can adapt and update your speed and position to keep yourself away from trouble.

Learn from mistakes. You're sure to be familiar with the 'oops factor'; the realisation that a risky moment just happened. Take time later to think about why that moment happened. Did you fail to see another vehicle? Did you misjudge distance or speed? Did we gamble with a changing traffic light? Most important, what could you do differently next time to reduce the risk?

"We can minimise the risks we face – and

the risks we pose to others," adds Neil Worth.

"Good observation and anticipation mean we can spot potential problems early and look for a safe resolution of a situation in its early stages. In a sense we're doing other drivers' work for them – and we shouldn't expect to be thanked for it. Our satisfaction can come in knowing that we made a positive contribution to ensuring a safer journey.

"Experience should warn us of situations where risk is increased: for example, if it's a wet day, we know we'll take longer to stop. More to the point, we can expect to have to make allowances for others who may be less experienced or who don't connect wet weather with greater risk.

"Taking time to assess any 'near misses' we might have experienced - those moments during a journey where we raised an eyebrow, drew in breath, cursed another driver, or felt our hearts miss a beat – can be very helpful in reducing risk.

"Most of us are poor at accepting blame. But we're trying to keep blame out of the equation and adopt the simple priority of



staying safe, and helping others stay safe, too.

"By recognising the situations that may lead to greater danger, and learning from those 'oops factor' moments, we can actively reduce risk, both to ourselves and to those around us."



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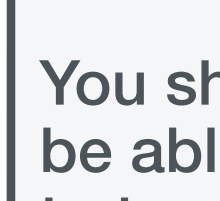
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Red Dragons – Wolverhampton Sunday League Cup back in 1971



All smiles – celebrations after the Vin Boden Cup Final

# Doreen adds fun but now for the serious challenge

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

**THERE** was plenty of laughter as the Wolverhampton Sunday League celebrated its 60th anniversary in style.

The Queen of the Black Country, Doreen Tipton, proved a smash hit on a night to remember for the league's hard-working committee.

Around 150 former players, officials and guests were kept entertained by Doreen's, (Gill Jordan to give her her real name), unique brand of humour with chairman Terry Shinton revealing it was a casual remark from his sister Tina that planted the idea of adding a female touch to proceedings.

"We had Ian 'Sludge' Lees at the previous event, so we were thinking along the same lines, a Black Country comedian because that's what we are, really, a Black Country league," said Shinton. "And Gill, sorry Doreen, was brilliant. She was great and stayed around afterwards to have numerous pictures taken."

"There was some good work by all the committee to organise the evening. Everybody mucked in and got things done and it was great to see it turn out to be such a success."

### Battling

And after toasting their latest milestone well into the night in the Hayward Suite at Molineux, the league's committee are now turning their attentions to the serious issue of attracting new sides to sign up for Sunday morning action.

Leagues across the country are battling against falling participation numbers and the Wolverhampton Sunday is no different.

In recent years the area has seen the Dudley & Cradley Heath League and the Wolverhampton Combination, which played its games on Saturdays both fold, while the Bilston Junior Youth League has also blown its final whistle.

In its heyday the Wolverhampton Sunday League boasted 120 clubs and even had a waiting list. This season saw 61 teams sign up for action across five divisions.

But Shinton, who has been involved with the league for 40 years, and fellow committee members – Simon Perks, Phil Reade, Ian Ebbelwhite, Wayne Harrison, Eddie Yardley, Howard Morris and Phil Taylor – are ready to tackle the challenge head on. They are hop-

**"At one time we didn't have any money but now we have money but can't get the teams. That's a concern for us going forward. We are half the size we used to be. We had 120 sides at one point and a waiting list. We started this season with 61"**

ing to introduce a youth league in a bid to provide a route through to senior football.

"We are very proud to celebrate 60 years," said Shinton. "It's a great achievement and one we should be proud of. I have been involved with the league for 40 years, refereeing and then on the committee as treasurer and then, for the last four years, chairman."

"At one time we didn't have any money but now we have money but can't get the teams. That's a concern for us going forward."

"We are half the size we used to be. We had 120 sides at one point and a waiting list. We started this season with 61. That's the way things have changed. There is no Saturday morning football in Wolverhampton anymore. Who would have thought that would happen?"

"The Bilston League had 14 divisions a few years ago and now the league has finished."

"For this season we tried to introduce a women's league and a veterans' league but we had no response to either. It's the same for leagues all over the country. Every league is suffering and losing teams."

"But we a very well-run league and we have always had a good committee. And we are up for the challenge and the fight to get more people playing local

league football. One of the things we are looking at is introducing a youth league next season."

"We have contacted Birmingham County FA and they have given us permission to do it. Ideally we would like teams at under-13, 14, 15 and 16 and then they can go to open age football. We have got to start promoting it and see what interest we can generate."

Shinton believes the league has plenty to offer and he is open to any suggestions on how to check the problem of falling playing numbers.

"The league has some of the best facilities in the country," he added. "The park facilities in the area are brilliant."

"Some of the Birmingham Leagues don't have changing rooms, players still have to change in their cars on the car parks."

"We don't let sides play without changing rooms and showers. That side of things is set up really well."

"We have also got plenty of referees. A few years back we got to the stage where we had enough referees to put neutral linesmen on the line in the Premier Division. We look after our referees really well."

### Involved

"As a committee we are constantly looking at new ways of getting people involved and teams on board," he added.

"At a recent league meeting we asked clubs to put suggestions forward and if they want to they can come to our next committee meeting and talk through their ideas."

"We are open to any ideas and we will try to put them into action if we think they are good enough."

"But it's not just football that's losing numbers. We sit on the Wolverhampton Sports Council and other sports are suffering. The athletics club start losing people when they reach 18 and it's the same with hockey clubs."

Shinton's determination to build on the league's rich history is obvious and hopefully there will be plenty more years of action on the parks in and around Wolverhampton.

"It's not all doom and gloom, the commitment is there from all our committee," he said.

"And as long as I have got breath, I will be fighting to get more teams on board to keep the league going," he added.



Chairman Terry Shinton with special guest Doreen Tipton



A winning team – the Wolverhampton Sunday League's committee

## Edgbaston grows for popular run of cricket

EDGBASTON is to add 840 temporary seats to its capacity for next summer's first Ashes Test against Australia, as well as matches in the World Cup and the domestic Twenty20 Blast Finals Day.

WITH ticket sales for next summer's Specsavers Ashes Test match increased by 35 per cent in the pre-sale window in comparison Edgbaston's last Test meeting between England and Australia in 2015, the Birmingham venue is working with Arena Seating to install a temporary stand for use across all days.

Gareth Roberts, commercial director at Edgbaston, said: "There's never been a bigger programme of cricket in Birmingham than what's coming in 2019, with the Ashes, ICC Cricket World Cup and Finals Day all coming to Edgbaston."

"We're very proud to bring the biggest fixtures in the game to Birmingham and, in response to the initial demand that we've seen, we wanted to give more spectators an opportunity to secure tickets for these games."



George Elokobi

## Wolves duo to make debut on microphone

GEORGE ELOKOBI and Matt Jarvis are heading back to Wolverhampton – to make their debut on a microphone! The popular former Wolves duo will join Chris Iwelumo, who has carved out a successful media career since retirement, as guests at the latest event for Molineux fans at the Cleveland Arms.

Hosted by former goalkeeper Matt Murray, it takes place on Thursday, November 29 and all VIP packages have already been sold. Only standard tickets at £10 remain.

Murray said: "George and Matt haven't done this kind of thing before but they said yes straight away when they were asked to come along. All three lads are really looking forward to meeting the Wolves fans again."

"These are great nights because it brings the fans close to the players and everyone goes away having had a really enjoyable time listening to the lads and their stories from their career and in particular their time with Wolves."

Tickets are available at the Stow Heath Lane venue, or call 01902 451021.



Matt Jarvis





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## Injury blow ends Denny title chance

ROWLEY Regis' Tyler Denny suffered heartbreak on Saturday evening after a nasty facial injury ended his hopes of winning the English middleweight title.

Denny had a deep gash to his lip, and a badly swollen eye when referee Terry O'Connor sought the views of the ring-side doctor for a second time midway through the eighth round at Walsall Town Hall. The fight was waved off giving Leeds' Reece Cartwright the belt. It was the first defeat of 27-year-old Denny's career.

Wolverhampton debutant Conah Walker stole the show on the undercard to the BCB Promotions show. The Ricky Hatton youngster blew away Jan Korec, securing a fourth round stoppage.

Fellow debutant Troi 'The Hawk' Coleman impressed against the teak-tough Louis Van Poetsch. The Burntwood boxer can be pleased with his first foray into the pro game having made the switch from the unlicensed scene.

Fellow Burntwood boxer Dani Hodges made it two wins on the bounce since switching from kickboxing as she overcame Poland's Sonia Klos.

Walsall duo, James Beech Jr and Levi Ferguson, both cruised to victory over Simas Volosinas and Jordan Grannum respectively whilst Oldbury's Ryan 'Stewart' Davis bounced back from a first career defeat to beat Jamie Quinn in six rounds.

BCB Promotions are next in Walsall on October 27. See [www.bcb-promotions.com](http://www.bcb-promotions.com).

## Defending champs take season opener

STOURBRIDGE chess club started their Tuesday night Worcester and District Division 1 campaign with a very tough journey to the defending champions Redditch.

Stourbridge fielded a strong team for the four board match but Redditch had two strong top boards and weaker boards 3 and 4.

Things did not go Stourbridge's way when board 3 lost on time following some confusion about the time control.

Nic Fallowfield played well on board 1 to draw with a higher rated opponent. Sam Bradley also drew on board 4 so Redditch won the match 3-1.

On Wednesday, the second team faced Warley Quinborne for their first match of the season in Birmingham division 4. Stourbridge outgraded their opponents on all boards and won the match 4-2 with wins for Jeremy Humphries and Ron Evans.

Anyone interested in joining Stourbridge chess club should contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit [www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk) for more information.

## Harriers next as Glassboys progress



Jordan Brown in action

**Stourbridge 3 Leamington 2**  
KAIMAN Anderson conjured up a stoppage-time winner as the Glassboys continued their love affair with the FA Cup. A replay looked the likely outcome after National League side Leamington came from 2-0 down to level.

But in true FA Cup fashion, Stourbridge produced a last-gasp stunner when substitute Chekaine Steele whipped in an inch-perfect cross with his first touch of the ball for Anderson

to convert. Glassboys boss Gary Hackett admitted: "At 2-2, I would have taken a replay, but we dug deep and the one thing we've proved is that we know how to win Cup ties!"

Glassboys were gifted the lead on 48 minutes when Jack Lane turned a Robbie Thompson-Brown cross into his own net. Stourbridge nabbed a second goal on 55 minutes when goalkeeper Tony Breedon bravely came off his line to block the ball at Thompson-Brown's

feet, but could only watch in horror as the ball rebounded back out to Leon Broadhurst, who fired back home from fully 35 yards.

But Matt Stenson slotted home from a corner on 82 minutes and the same player levelled for the Brakes soon after. But Anderson had the last word.

Glassboys, who face a home tie against Kidderminster in the next round on October 6, are at home to Needham Market on Saturday, 3pm.

# LIIONS TAMED IN HOME DEN

Peterborough Lions 7 Stourbridge 36

**THIS first encounter between the two teams saw the visitors dominate much of the game but not without a second half recovery from the Pride.**

These two sides have never met before in a competitive game so there was a sense of nerves and respect shown during the first forays.

The visitors fielded a few changes from last week's win against Tynedale with the return of Nigel Mukarati but losing an injured Chad Thorne. The home side kicked off with a slight wind advantage but it would soon become clear that the more experienced team and players of Stourbridge would dictate play and territory. However, some chances went begging and it took 18 minutes for the visitors to score their first try, Rickie Alely chipping through for Joe Heatley to touch down and Alely converting.

### Elapsed

Only two more minutes elapsed before the second try was scored, by skipper Llyr Griffiths.

Adam Shaw got his first half reward following some good work by Niall Gibbons and Nick Cairns, proving their worth as mobile back row players. Alely provided the extras and Stour led 19-0.

The visitors secured a bonus point fourth try on the half hour mark as Cairns picked up and powered over and again Alely converted.

The game seemed to take a subtle turn around half time when industrious second row Nick Murphy saw a yellow card seconds before 40 minutes. Peterborough failed to make touch with the penalty kick but some serious words and several changes during the break made for a lively period for them into the wind.

Down to 14 men, Stourbridge kicked off and were playing against an invigorated and amended home side that started to dominate territory and



Mark Harrison in action as Stourbridge emerge from the Lions' den with a win

set pieces, in particular. The pink line held fast until referee Ieuan Davies lost patience after a series of Stourbridge infringements. Sam Wilkes was the unlucky recipient and Stour were back down to 14 men for the second time. Lions were awarded a penalty but an easy Alely penalty put Stourbridge 29-7 in front.

The Lions came roaring back through Tom Lewis and Suva Maasi. However, the resolute Stour defence was enough to secure a result, which was cemented by a last minute try scored by Dan Rundle, allowing a simple conversion for replacement Chris Scott.

The bonus point win leaves the home side in basement position and Stourbridge up to sixth

place on 15 points. This weekend sees a crucial encounter against top of the table Hinckley who have amassed 19 points in four games having beaten Tynedale, Wharfedale, Peterborough and Hull Ionians.

Stourbridge Lions made it three wins in a row with a comfortable victory over Moseley Oak by 32-7.

Lions opened the scoring with a penalty after 15 minutes, scored by Will Tibbetts. A penalty try got Moseley on the scoresheet, but Stourbridge points followed from Matt Poole and George Tildesley, both converted by Will Tibbetts, Tom Daly, Alfie Smith and Fred Brooks.

● DK beat Droitwich 24-0 under floodlights.

## Lesson for Yeltz as Cup dreams over

**Halesowen 0 Gainsborough Trinity 3**  
HALESOWEN were given a harsh footballing lesson as high-flying Northern Premier League outfit Gainsborough coasted to victory in the FA Cup Second Qualifying Round.

Trinity dominated against the limp hosts and will collect £9,000 in prize money.

Trinity made their dominance pay when Alex Simmons' corner was headed home by Shane Clarke in the six-yard box after 24 minutes. Simmons went close again in the 33rd minute.

The visitors added two further goals with some comfort in a one-sided second period.

On 53 minutes Alex Byrne's deep cross was met by a header from Damian Reeves but home goalkeeper Dan Platt pushed the ball away and Nathan Stainfield's header was cleared off the line from the resulting corner.

But the lead was soon doubled when man of the match Simmons was given too much time to deliver a lovely cross from the right for Ashley Worsfield to place a 54th minute header into the top corner.

Platt kept out further efforts from Reeves and Alex Byrne before Gainsborough made it 3-0 in the 74th minute with an individual, but far too easy goal from Simmons, who turned the home defence before unleashing a fierce shot from the edge of the area to beat Platt.

Yeltz return to league action on Saturday with a visit to Bedworth United.

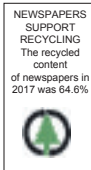
## Manager goes in appointment row

CRADLEY Town are to appoint Chris Butts as manager after Ashley Causser resigned in a dispute with club bosses.

Causser claims Butts was appointed as a 'joint manager behind his back'. But chairman Trevor Thomas says he was brought in from Oldbury United to help turn around a poor start - but wasn't given an official role. Oldbury are now interviewing for their vacant post.

In the West Midlands Regional League on Saturday, Tividale beat Shawbury United 6-0, leaders Black Country Rangers drew 2-2 with Dudley Town, Dudley Sports lost 5-0 to Malvern and Smethwick Rangers lost 1-0 to Wellington.

\*\*\*  
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Hydrotherapy has numerous uses and benefits when it comes to pets

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# Promoting the welfare of ill-treated, abandoned pets

## Commercial feature

**WILD ACRE RESCUE** is fortunate to have volunteers with a wealth of knowledge and experience, spanning more than 30 years, in dealing with domestic pets. This has proved very beneficial and successful.

Our objectives are to promote the welfare of ill-treated, abandoned and homeless animals in the area. To also provide advice, support and education to the general public in all matters concerning the welfare of domestic pets.

Our aim is to take domestic animals into care and restore their faith in human nature so that they are ready to move on to new homes.

We deal with health and behavioural problems as far as is possible, using our experience for both cats and dogs which, over the years, has proved very successful.

## Understand

Sometimes it just takes care, understanding, and a little time. We look to place them with families who understand their individual needs. This is in the hope that a "forever home" is found for every animal passing through our hands.

All animals are neutered before homing (unless, of course, they are too young) but even then we follow up at the appropriate time to ensure it is done. We also ensure all cats and dogs are vaccinated, microchipped and are fully up to date on flea and worm treatment before moving to a new



Aim is to take animals into care and restore their faith in human nature

home. All potential homes are vetted to ensure the dog or cat goes into a home which is right for both the new owner and the animal.

We firmly believe that care and understanding of animal welfare should start at an early age. Therefore, we encourage children to become involved. All of our own children help our rescue group in whatever way they can.

Wild Acre Rescue have many volunteers who work closely with us – just because they enjoy working with animals. Our foster homes and volunteer workers contribute a great deal to the rescue. Helping with the animals, giving them temporary or permanent homes, walking the animals and transporting them to and from the vets. They also play a vital part in fundraising. This includes collecting

items which are donated, helping at our shop and other events. We couldn't do what we do if we didn't have people like these to help us. It is with the biggest thanks to them for helping us to continue.

The work we all do is rewarding enough, just to see another animal safe and cared for.

If you would like to contact the Wild Acre Team the details are below. You can contact us either by phone or email

Contact numbers are:  
Gena For Dog Enquiries 01902 419787 or 07919 607 028  
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